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アフタヌーンKC
講談社 定価：本体543円 (税抜)

From the assault when her parents were killed at a young age,
A young girl, Shion, lost her voice.
But she lives now as a female shogi player and is fighting to the end of the the Open Tournament!
And now, a great trial, both as shogi players and human beings
Lies before Shion as well as her rival and friend, Ayamil
What is needed for victory? Is it strength? Resolve? Or something else...?!
The limelight shines on the sense shogi,
The match of the semi-finals, while the search for the truth of the incident also enters second countdown!!

32nd Move The Girl Who Can't Speak
33rd Move Lost Memories
31st Move Music
36th Move The Rival Move
37th Move Shogi
34th Move Lies

しおんの王
Story : KATORI MASARU Art : ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

AFTERNOON KC 472

しおんの王

6

THE FLOWERS OF HEAVEN

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

雑誌 55723-72

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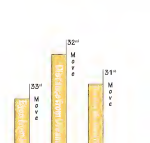

しおんの王

Story ● KATORI MASARU Art ● ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

アフタヌーンKCまつり2007 超プレゼント企画!!

AR対応のアフタヌーン誌上広告にケータイをかざすと【史上最大KCまつり2007特製ベストバトルカードセット】10名様

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TVアニメ公式HP http://www.shion-oh.com

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応募締め切り 2007年11月30日(金)

アフタヌーン創刊20周年記念 超プレゼント!!

A賞 20名
B賞 「しおんの王」特製Tシャツ 25名
C賞 「もうけ」特製Tシャツ 25名
D賞 アフタヌーン20周年記念特製鏡面カード(500円) 200名
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講談社

6

しおんの王

The Flowers of Hard Blood

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

Story : KATORI M[illegible] Art : ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

AFTERNOON
KC472

しおんの王 6

The Flowers of Hard Blood

原作 かとりまさる
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講談社

アフタヌーンKC 講談社

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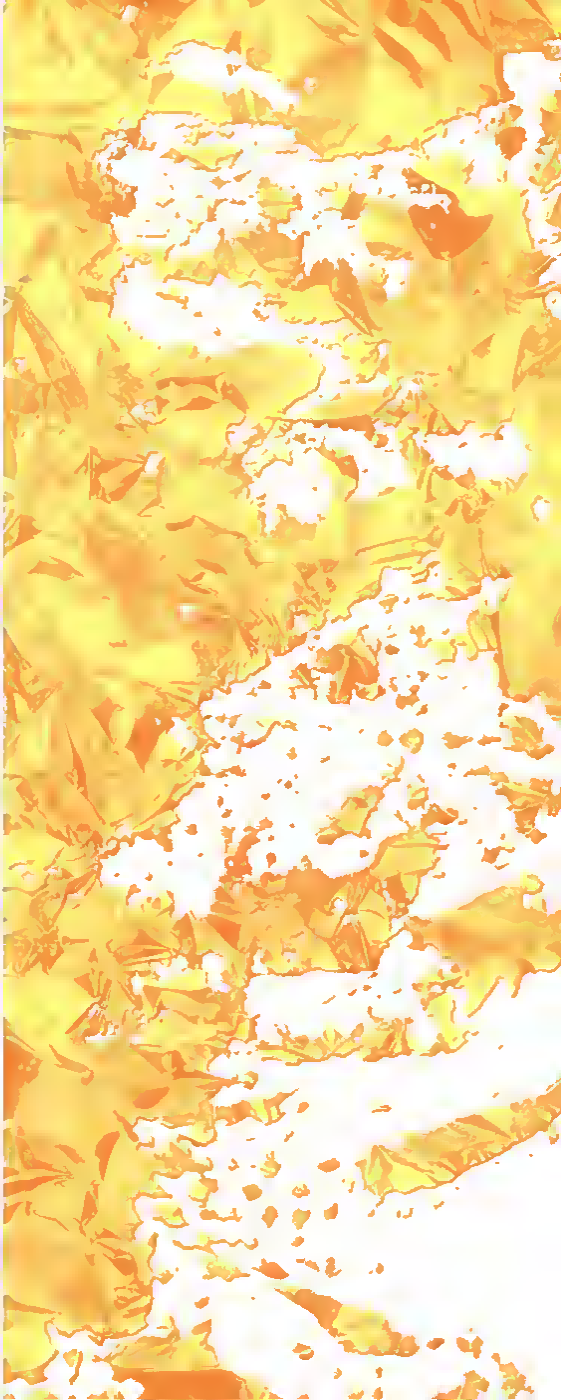
しおんの王

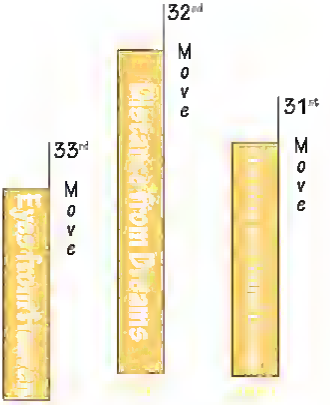
6

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安恵慧明

講談社

6
しおんの王
The Flowers of Hard Blue
原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

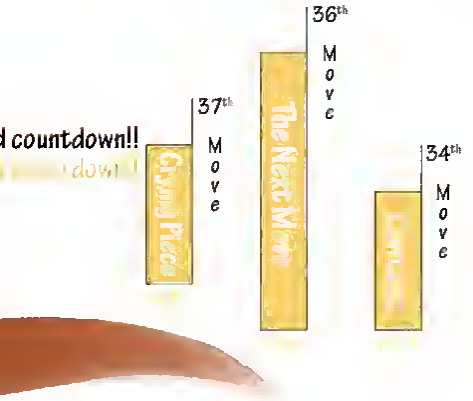




rnament!

しおんの王

Story : KATORI MASARU × Art : ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC



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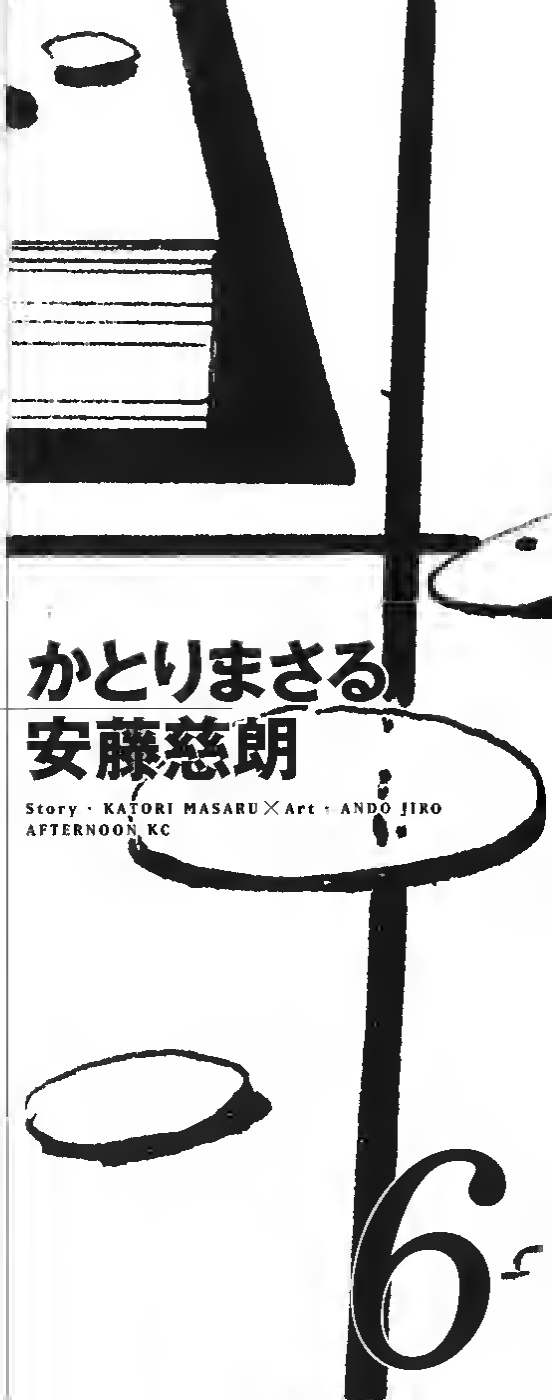

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Story・KATORI MASARU×Art：ANDO JIRO

AFTERNOON KC

6

Introduction of the Main Characters

Shion, who lost her parents at a young age, was adopted into a professional shogi kishi's family and raised into a beautiful young girl. While carrying the burden of her parents' brutal murder, Shion decided to become a shogi kishi under the guidance of her adopted father, and has recently met 2 other joryu kishi, Saitou Ayumi and Nikaidou Saori. The three girls, although raised in completely different environments and with different ways of playing shogi, bonded together as friends and rivals. However, in the irregular, large scale tournament the Meijin started, the three face difficulties in their games and only Ayumi and Shion manage to pull through the Defeated Participants' Revival Matches. And then, Shion was thrown into a match against her adopted father!

Yasuoka Shion

Joryu Kishi. She lost the power of speech as an infant when her parents were murdered. She writes down all her expressions. Only 14 years old

Saitou Ayumi

In order to help his health impaired mother, he cross-dressed in order to become a Joryu Kishi. Dropped out of high school

Nikaidou Saori

Joryu 1st dan. Fellow apprentice of the current Meijin Hani. Raised in an affluent household. 18 years old

Yasuoka Couple

Adopted Shion eight years ago after she lost her parents. Now practically like real parents to her.

Hani Makoto

Hani Satoru

***This story is a work of fiction. There is no relation to any real people, organizations, titles, etc.**

31st Move
The Way the Wind Blows

IT'S CHECKMATE
!?
AT THIS RATE, SHION'S KING WILL...

HE'LL COUNTER MY LANCE TO 7-G BY CAPTURING WITH HIS GOLD GENERAL.
BUT BY CAPTURING IN TURN WITH MY KNIGHT AND PROMOTING IT, MY HORSE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO DEFEND FROM ITS POSITION.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF...
NO-
I WILL PULL IT OFF!

LANCE TO 7-G.
SNAP
IF THAT'S SO-
WAIT, SHION WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY HER HORSE...
IF I RETREAT, I'LL BE THROWING IT AWAY.
IF I PLAY THE SILVER GENERAL AND LANCE TO 9-E,
BLACK RETREATED TO 8-H!?
Slide

HAVING THE OPPONENT SUDDENLY RETREAT AFTER MAKING AN ADVANCE...
THAT MIGHT BE HARD FOR SHION TO PLAY.
YASUOKA-SENSEI RETREATED HIS GOLD GENERAL WITHOUT TAKING THE LANCE.
AND SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEND WITH HER HORSE AS A RESULT
SINCE HE'S RETREATED HIS GOLD GENERAL, SHION WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE HER KNIGHT ON 6-E,
SHOULD I GIVE YOU A GOLD STAR FOR THAT?
BINGO!
HISATANI-KUN IS CORRECT
Hmph

NO. THIS IS HER BAD HABIT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HISATANI-KUN?
IT SEEMS SHION-SAN IS BECOMING MORE CAUTIOUS NOW,
OR DID SHE ANTICIPATE THIS AS WELL?
.....
BAD HABIT?
WHEN FACING A MOVE SHE DIDN'T READ,
SHE'LL FIRST STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT.
THEN SHE LOSES SIGHT OF THE FINAL MOVE

ISN'T THAT ALSO THE REASON "THAT CASE" HAS NEVER BEEN RESOLVED?
警視
!!

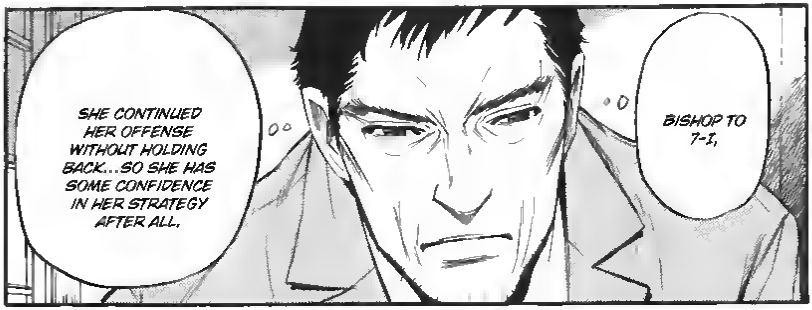
HE RETREATED HIS GOLD GENERAL... IS IT ALRIGHT TO CONTINUE ADVANCING LIKE THIS?
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
WHEN SHE'S FACED WITH A MOVE SHE CAN'T READ, INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING SHE GETS STUCK TRYING TO FIND THE REASONING BEHIND IT.
... SHION IS PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT MEANING THERE WAS IN THE GOLD GENERAL'S RETREAT.

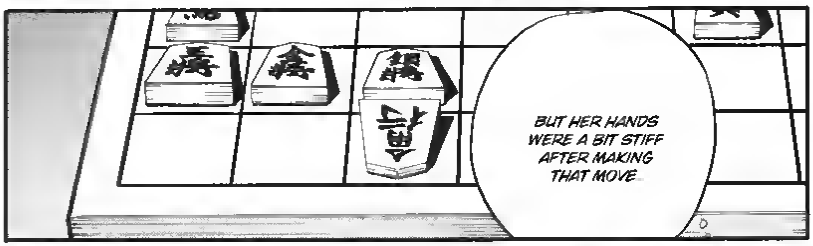
UNABLE TO LEAVE THE BOARD BEFORE FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE GAME...
BY DOING SO THIS CHILD HAS BECOME STRONG.
BUT, SHION ..
YOU CAN'T BECOME A TRUE SHOGI PLAYER IF YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR INTUITION!
IT'LL BE OKAY, I'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO END THIS GAME!
Clench
Clench
.....I CAN'T WASTE TIME HERE!

LANCE TO 7-H... SHION-SAN CONTINUED HER ADVANCE
DOES SHE HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS PLAN UNTIL THE END?
BUT, BY CAPTURING WITH HIS SILVER GENERAL, YASUOKA-SENSEI NOW HAS HER LANCE...
.....
HOW ARE SHION'S DEFENSES?
RIGHT NOW I'M HOLDING A GOLD GENERAL, SILVER GENERAL AND LANCE

IF IT'S LIKE THIS IT, FEELS LIKE I'LL CHECKMATE HER, BUT...
WILL I NOT CHECKMATE HER IF I MOVE SILVER GENERAL TO 7-A?
IF HER KING WAS IN DANGER,
SHION WOULD STOP ATTACKING HERE AND TAKE A STEP BACK..
CGCK

Quiver
Slide
……？

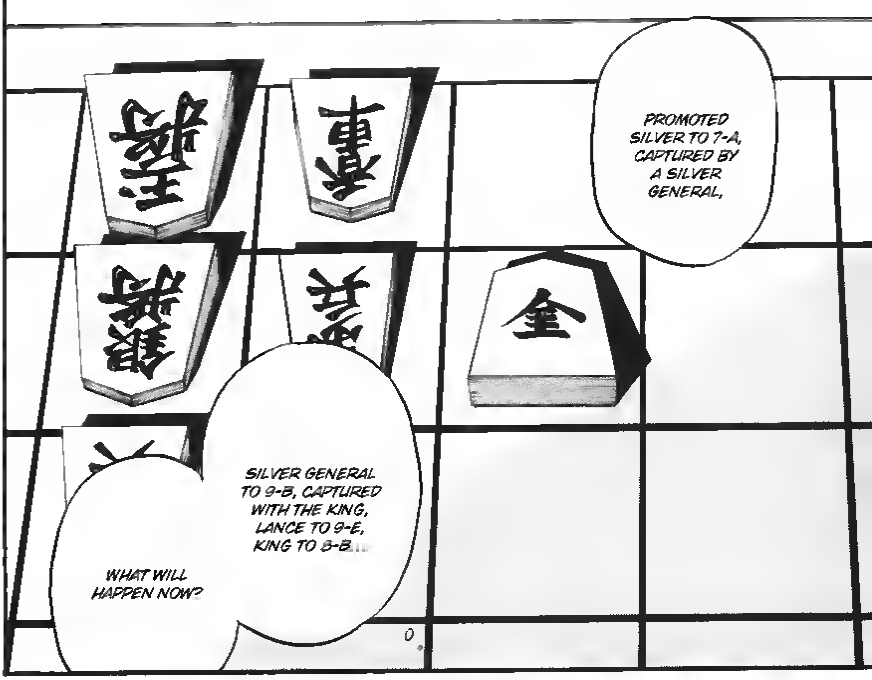

BISHOP TO 7-I,
SHE CONTINUED HER OFFENSE WITHOUT HOLDING BACK...SO SHE HAS SOME CONFIDENCE IN HER STRATEGY AFTER ALL.

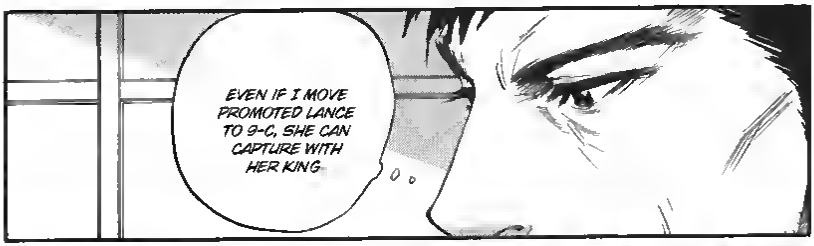

BUT HER HANDS WERE A BIT STIFF AFTER MAKING THAT MOVE...

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR SEEMS OFF ABOUT HER, BUT....
BUT... IF THIS MOVE WAS A MISTAKE, THEN....

I'LL CHECK SHION'S KING!!

NOW IS THE FINAL CHANCE!
OH, RIGHT HERE!
金将
銀将
歩
CAPTURED BY SILVER GENERAL, THEN SILVER GENERAL TO 9-B, THEN CAPTURED BY THE KING.
WITH SILVER GENERAL TO 7-A?
EVEN IF HE'S OUR MASTER, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD READ SO FAR AHEAD IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...


PROMOTED SILVER TO 7-A, CAPTURED BY A SILVER GENERAL,
SILVER GENERAL TO 9-B, CAPTURED WITH THE KING, LANCE TO 9-E, KING TO 8-B...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?


EVEN IF I MOVE PROMOTED LANCE TO 9-C, SHE CAN CAPTURE WITH HER KING.

IF I HAD THE TIME...
NO, THAT'S JUST COMPLAINING.
FOR NOW, I'LL JUST KEEP RECEIVING HER MOVES. I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE TO ATTACK IF IT ARISES.

BUT SHION'S EXPRESSION AFTER SHE MOVED HER BISHOP TO 7-I IS STILL BOTHERING ME,
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE'S A GOOD MOVE I CAN MAKE SOMEWHERE?
FOR A SECOND, SHE SEEMED TROUBLED BY SOMETHING...
AND HER EXPRESSION?
AFTER THAT MOVE SHE HASN'T TOUCHED HER PENDANT AT ALL.

THIS CALMNESS...
SO YOU DON'T SEE ME CHECKMATING YOU AFTER ALL, SHION?

Jack
FIVE SECONDS LEFT
NO REGRETS-
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIRTY THIS MATCH AT THE VERY END...

NOT PLAYING PROMOTED SILVER TO 7-A WAS PROOF OF HIS PRIDE AS A SHOGI PLAYER, PERHAPS
GOLD TO 8-I . . SO HE WASN'T ABLE TO CHECKMATE WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT AFTER ALL .
HIS "WAY OF LIFE," HUH?
YOU...HOW MANY SHOGI PLAYERS DO YOU THINK WOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH THAT GAME WITHIN A MINUTE!?
EVEN HAN!-MEIJIN MIGHT NOT HAVE
IF YOU DON'T WIN, NONE OF THAT HAS ANY MEANING, YOU KNOW
!!

PROMOTED SILVER TO 7-A...
!?
CAPTURED WITH SILVER GENERAL, SILVER GENERAL TO 9-B, AND IF SHE RESPONDS WITH KING TO 8-B, THEN,
PROMOTED SILVER TO 8-C, CAPTURED WITH THE KING, DRAGON TO 3-C, PAWN TO 7-C, AND FINALLY LANCE TO 7-E FOR CHECK-MATE,
Grrr
OR, IF SHE RESPONDS BY CAPTURING HIS SILVER GENERAL TO 9-B WITH HER KING, THEN LANCE TO 9-I, KING TO 8-B,
PROMOTED LANCE TO 9-C, CAPTURED BY THE KING, LANCE TO 8-E, KING TO 8-B, GOLD GENERAL TO 9-C, KING TO 8-A
LIKE THAT,
YASUOKA 8TH DAN'S VICTORY...!

Slide
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO, HUH—

I'VE LOST.
WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S YOUR WIN, SHION.
wiggle wiggle
Thank you very much
HAHAHA! EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SO CALM DURING THE MATCH!
BUT, I WAS MARVELOUSLY HAD.
TO BE SO PRESSED FOR TIME IN THE END...

HN?
WHEN YOU PLAYED BISHOP TO 7-I,
SOMETHING FELT OUT OF PLACE, BUT WEREN'T YOU CONFIDENCE IN IT?
Clack
.....
Nod
NO WAY...
I HAD YOU CORNERED?!
Clack
Clack
Clack
OH...

My heart was pounding, it was really hard to keep it from showing..
THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO CHECK-MATE YOU LIKE THIS?
IN THAT MOMENT YOU NOTICED
AND STAY SO CALM EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW SHE COULD HAVE BEEN CHECK-MATED...
TO HAVE READ IT INSTANTANEOUSLY AT THAT POINT IN THE GAME
SHION, YOU'VE MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS
TO PLACES BEYOND MY UN-DERSTANDING...
SO THAT WAS HER "POKER FACE!"

SHION..
...
My heart was
it was really
YOU'VE BECOME EVEN STRONGER,
SO THAT YOU WON'T LOSE TO ANYBODY!
FATHER .

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SHION HAS ALREADY BECOME A WONDERFUL PLAYER.

...I SAID I WAS SORRY, HONEY!
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF PREPARING DINNER!
I'M TELLING, YOU IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, WE'RE JUST GOING FOR A FEW DRINKS!
ANYWAYS, I'M NOT GOING STRAIGHT HOME TONIGHT...
Yasuoka Shinji
Sachiko
Shion

WINNING AND LOSING, SHOGI,
I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I ASKED, RIGHT?
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, I GET IT!
WHAT ABOUT SHION?
THAT GUY WON AGAIN, YOU KNOW...
OH MY, THAT'S WONDERFUL!
HM... WELL,
I'LL HAVE HISATANI SEND SHION HOME.
WHEN THOSE TWO GET HOME, GIVE THEM SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO EAT FOR ME, OKAY?

Sigh...

YOU REALLY CAN'T GO BACK TO THE SAME HOME AS THE PERSON YOU LOST TO, HUH?

PLEASE SUIT YOURSELF AND ENJOY WALKING BACK ALONE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING THEN!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO GIVE THEM YOUR PORTION TOO!
OH, I SWEAR!
clatter
.....

NO, IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
SORRY, THAT WAS RUDE OF ME—I DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF EAVESDROPPING.

NO-
THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE...
SHION-SAN WAS SPLENDID, WASN'T SHE?

I GUESS SHE WASN'T AN APPLE THOUGH, RIGHT?
BUT THE APPLE TREE,
WAS VERY HAPPILY OVER-SHADOWED.
THE SAPLING YOU'VE BROUGHT UP,
HAS SWALLOWED YOU UP IN ITS SHADE.
.....

AS LONG AS HIS SACRIFICE COULD HELP HIS CHILD'S GROWTH...
.....

FA...
...THER?
YASUOKA-SENSEI!
ARE THOSE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS?

THOUGH IT WASN'T MY ORIGINAL INTENTION TO LOSE...
I WONDER IF THIS IS A PROPER STEPPING STONE FOR SHION?
.....
YES, OF COURSE.
TONIGHT I'LL BE DRINKING MY SORROWS AWAY ON MY OWN.
SHOULDN'T THIS BE A CON-GRATULATORY TOAST?

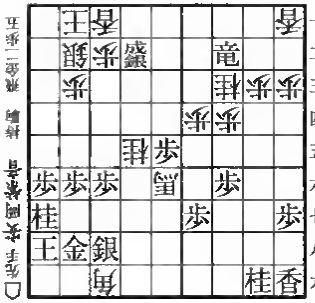
THAT, I DON'T KNOW YET...
...WELL
SINCE THAT CHILD'S REAL GAME HAS JUST STARTED, AFTER ALL.

...THANK YOU
YOU'VE SHOWN ME GOOD SHOGI.
Chapter 31 END

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は △7九角まで）



（第2図は △9一王まで）

親子対決の決着は如何に！

あれ？　詰んでないのになんで投了するのだろう、と、プロの将棋番組などを観て思った人は多いはず。

王様の動き場所がなくなるまで指すのはアマチュアの人。

プロの場合は相手の実力（強さ）がわかっているので、自玉が惨めに殺される前に投了します。ただ実際に負けたと思っても難しい局面で相手が一手間違えれば勝てるチャンスがあるなら、今回の紫音のように平然と指し続けます。将棋の変化手順は計り知れません。相手が強いと思っても、読み落としもあると信じるのも勝負の一手。

安岡は秒読みの最中、1回から受ける手と詰ましに行く手、両方考えていました。が、詰ますほうの読み順は、第2図で自分の持ち駒を見ると香だけなので詰まないと思い、この手順の読みは、断念します。

第2図をご覧ください。後手王を詰めてみましょう。

第1図から第2図までの手順も将棋好きの人はどうぞお考えください。

頭の中で駒を動かす練習をしていると、かなり実力がアップするはずです。

将棋は人生のようだ、とよくいいます。

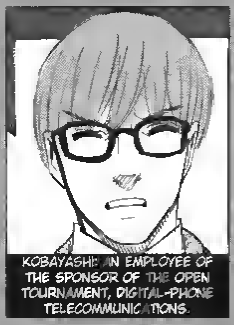
若い頃は攻めることに夢中でも、年をとってくると自然に受けを身につける。

今回、それが安岡には裏目に出たよう。

第2図、▲9二香△8一王▲7三桂不成△同歩▲9一香成△同王▲9二金までですが、安岡は▲7三桂不成という手順が浮かんでなかったのです。

負けてる将棋を勝てる、ということは運が味方している紫音。これからどこまで戦えるか注目してください！

HISATANI KEIJI: DISCIPLE UNDER SHION'S FATHER, YASUOKA 8TH DAN. HE IS A 3RD DAN UNDER THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION.



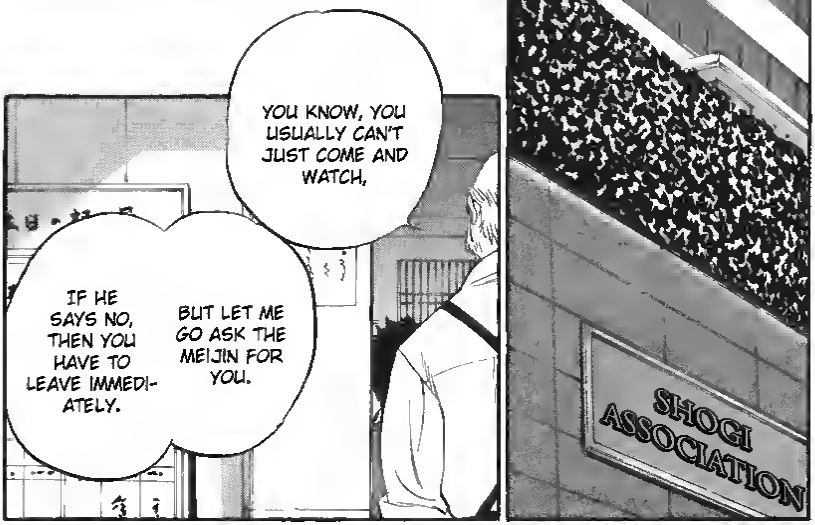
KOBAYASHI: AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SPONSOR OF THE OPEN TOURNAMENT, DIGITAL-PHONE TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

32nd Move
Distance from Dreams
Today's Matches
Special Match Room
Hani Makoto Meijin
Hisatani Keiji
Shogi Association 3rd Dan

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I SWEAR I GOT THIS MONEY HONESTLY THROUGH MY SHOGI MATCHES!
AS IF I WOULD SEND MONEY I MADE FROM BAD DEEDS...
I'M ABOUT 100GS
I MEAN, I BORROWED 100 000 YEN FROM YOU LAST TIME, RIGHT?
IT'S THE TOURNAMENT'S SHOGI GAME FEES AND PRIZE MONEY.

I'M DOING REALLY WELL, SOMEHOW.
AND SINCE IT'S A GAME IN THE REAL TOURNAMENT, IT EARNS QUITE A BIT.
EH?
YEAH, IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE 3RD DAN LEAGUE ...
OF COURSE, I'M DOING MY BEST THERE TOO.
BUT FORGET ABOUT THAT, LISTEN, IF I WIN THIS NEXT SHOGI MATCH,
THEY'LL SPECIALLY PROMOTE ME TO 4TH DAN,
THAT'S RIGHT, I'LL COMPLETELY FLY OVER 3RD DAN AND BECOME A 4TH DAN! A 4TH DAN, YOU HEAR?
ISN'T THAT AWESOME? I'LL BE A PRO PLAYER RIGHT AWAY!

MY NEXT OPPONENT?
YOU CAN GO TRAVEL WITH FATHER, YOU KNOW-
AND THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO REPAY MORE OF THE MONEY I OWE YOU,
Hisatani Keiji
Hani Makoto Meijin
YEAH... HE'S STRONG.
YEAH... I'LL DO MY BEST.
REALLY STRONG.


YOU KNOW, YOU USUALLY CAN'T JUST COME AND WATCH,
BUT LET ME GO ASK THE MEIJIN FOR YOU.
IF HE SAYS NO, THEN YOU HAVE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
SHOGI ASSOCIATION

I KNOW THAT ALREADY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
GOT IT?

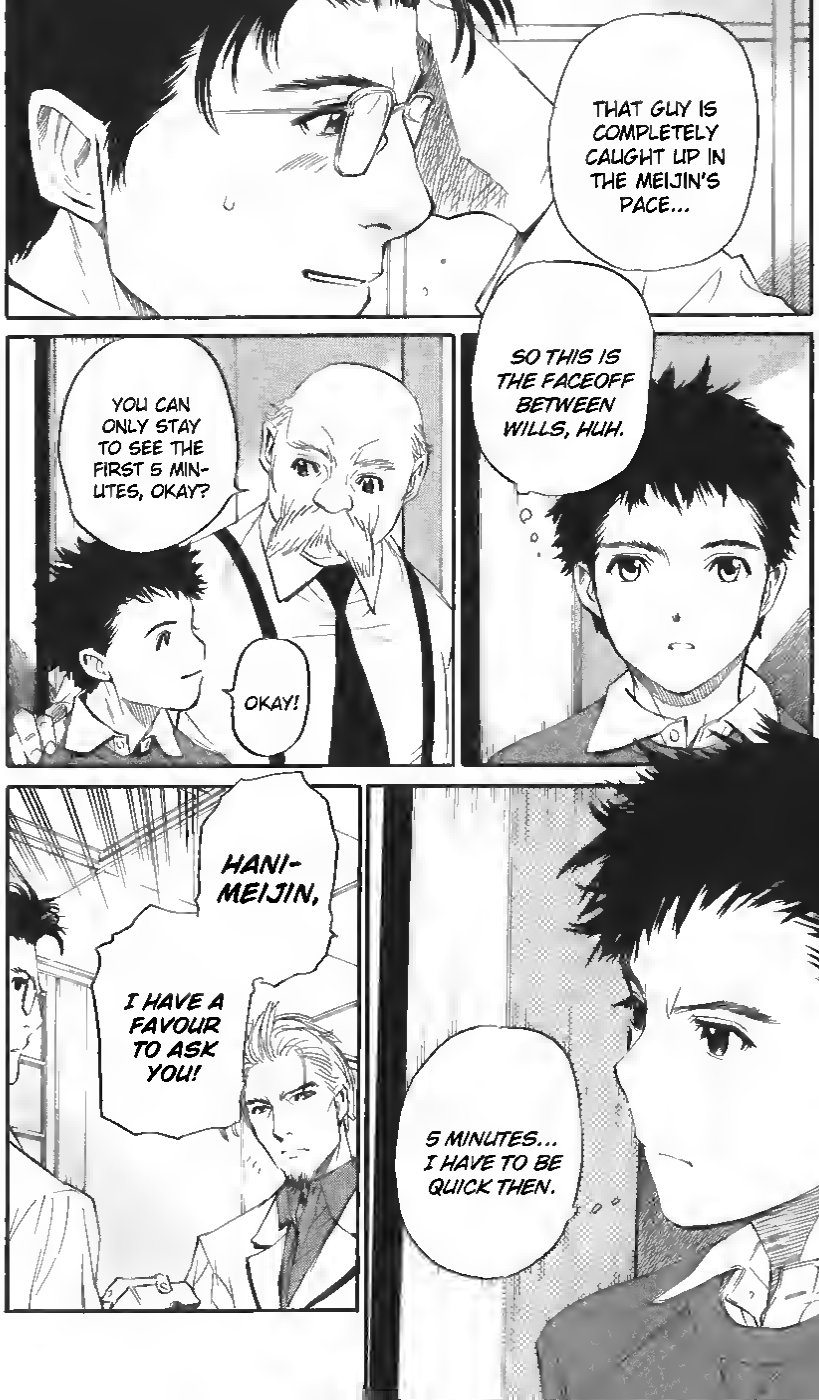
SPECIAL MATCH ROOM
.....
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, ALRIGHT!

Thump
Thump
IF I BEST HANI-MEIJIN AND WIN, THEN I'LL BECOME A 4TH DAN.
NO, I WILL WIN!
IF I REALLY MANAGE TO WIN-...
GASP
GOOD MORNING HISATANI-KUN,
OH, GOOD MORNING, FURUTA-SAN.
HISATANI-KUN IS PRETTY NERVOUS, AS EXPECTED...
WOW ...!

THE MEIJIN ALWAYS COMES EARLY THOUGH.
HMM.
WHO'S THAT BOY?
Swivel
Swivel
Swivel
HANI-MEIJIN STILL ISN'T HERE?
HUH... YEAH...
IS IT FINE IF HE WATCHES A WHILE? OF COURSE, WE HAVE TO ASK THE MEIJIN TOO.
HE SAID THAT HE REALLY WANTED TO SEE THE MATCH,
IT'S FINE BY ME.

G-... GOOD MORNING!
IF THE MEIJIN IS FINE WITH IT, I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM EITHER.
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T GET IN HISATANI'S WAY...?
I'M HONMA SUO, 11 YEARS OLD!
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME WATCH!!

YES!!
WOAH! HANI-MEIJIN REMEMBERED ME!
AH,
YOU'RE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER WHO WON AGAINST MURATA 9TH DAN.
AND THEN,
LOST AGAINST YASUOKA SHION...
HE EVEN REMEMBERS THE RESULTS FROM THE PRELIMS...
YES...
Wave
Wave
NO... YOU'RE TOO KIND!
IT WOULD BE NEAT IF I PAID YOU BACK FOR TODAY.
HISATANI-KUN, IN FRONT OF ME, IS THE RISING STAR OF YASUOKA'S STUDENTS


THAT GUY IS COMPLETELY CAUGHT UP IN THE MEIJIN'S PACE...
SO THIS IS THE FACEOFF BETWEEN WILLS, HUH.
YOU CAN ONLY STAY TO SEE THE FIRST 5 MINUTES, OKAY?
OKAY!
HANI-MEIJIN,
I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK YOU!
5 MINUTES... I HAVE TO BE QUICK THEN.

PLEASE... LET ME BE YOUR STUDENT!!
HEY, HEY!
YES, SIR!
STUDENT ...?

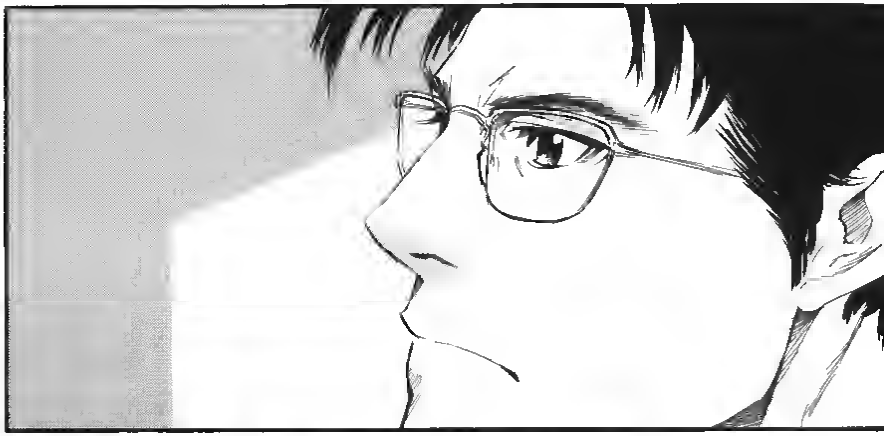
PLEASE!
PLEASE TAKE ME AS AN APPRENTICE!!
Thump
Thump
Thump
Thump
APPRENTICE ...?
YOU MEAN WITH ME?

YES, PLEASE!
PLEASE MAKE ME YOUR APPRENTICE, YASUOKA-SENSEI!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
HISATANI KEIJI, 14 YEARS OLD!
DO YOU PLAN TO BECOME A PRO PLAYER, HISATANI-KUN?
YES, SIR!

I LIKE YASUOKA-SENSEI'S SHOGI STYLE.
IT'S NOT THE MOST TACTFUL, BUT IT'S HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD...
THERE ARE STRONGER PROS YOU COULD ASK, NO?
THEN WHY DO YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM ME...?
PLEASE!
TO SEE IF I CAN BECOME A KISHI.
PLEASE AT LEAST TEST ME WITH A GAME!
AH, NO WORRIES... I DON'T DO THAT KIND OF THING.
I'M NOT SOME SOOTHSAYER WHO CAN SEE INTO ANOTHER'S FUTURE.
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY YOUR TALENTS BLOOM, HISATANI-KUN.

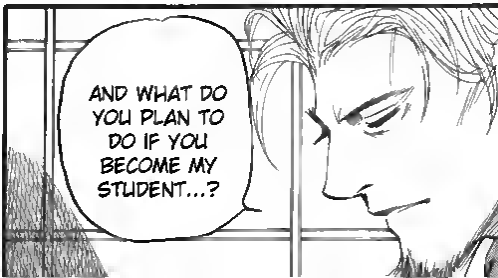
WELL, IF YOU MAKE EYES LIKE THOSE, THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE TO SAY.
THEN... DOES THAT MEAN...?
YASHOKA-SENSEI!
THIS IS THE PLACE CHIL-DREN CALLED 'GENIUSES'.
GATHER FROM ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY.
SHOGI ASSOCIATION
BUT THE TOUGH PART COMES AFTER THIS.
AND...

ALMOST ALL OF THEM GET CRUSHED DURING THEIR JOURNEY...



I'LL BECOME THE STRONG-EST!

HANI-MEIJIN!
PLEASE!


AND WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO IF YOU BECOME MY STUDENT...?

IN ORDER TO BECOME STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE,
I WANT TO BE THE STRONGEST PLAYER'S STUDENT!
STRONGEST PLAYER, IS IT...?
JUST LIKE SATORU, WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
FURUTA-SAN,
Y-YES ...!

PLEASE LEAD THE KID OUT...

COME ON, OUT WE GO.
HANI-MEIJIN...
CACK
WE'LL SEE JUST WHO'S BETTER, ME OR YOU, BROTHER!
.....!?

I'M SERIOUS!
YOU SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING ALL THAT...
SHEESH...
AND I THINK MY FEELINGS GOT ACROSS TO THE MEIJIN TOO.
HE WASN'T ANGRY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
THE MEIJIN WAS FURIOUS.

HANI-MEIJIN WAS...
SAD, I THINK.
SAD?

SAORI-SAN?!
HOW IS HISATANI-KUN?
.....
!?
HUH?!
THE MEIJIN IS LOSING?!
I GUESS THAT WE CAN'T EXPECT HIM TO DO VERY WELL AGAINST THE MEIJIN, AFTER ALL...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE HONMA-KUN WHO PLAYED AGAINST SHION-CHAN?!
HOW IS IT GOING SO FAR? THE GAME, THAT IS...
EVEN THOUGH HE KEPT SAYING HE WANTED TO WATCH UNTIL THE END.
HE CAME TO WATCH THE MATCH, BUT HE WAS CHASED OUT BY THE MEIJIN.
WELL...
FOR SOME REASON, THE OPENING SEEMS TO HAVE GONE TO HISATANI-KUN.

!?
REALLY?
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I ALREADY SAID THE MEIJIN WAS AT A DISADVANTAGE JUST NOW...
DID THE MEIJIN SEEM OFF SOMEHOW? DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
WELL, YOU SEE...
RIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH STARTED, HONMA-KUN,
SUDDENLY BEGGED HANI-MEIJIN TO MAKE HIM HIS STUDENT...
I was so shocked I started sweating!
YOU ASKED HANI-MEIJIN TO MAKE YOU HIS STUDENT ... ARE YOU FOR REAL?!
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D ACCEPT!!

I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S DIFFERENT BETWEEN YOU AND SHION-CHAN.
EH?
SHION-CHAN WOULD NEVER DECIDE SOMETHING WAS IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE TRYING!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU CAN DO SOMETHING UNTIL YOU TRY.
THAT'S WHY SHION-CHAN IS SO STRONG.
.....

LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT DOING AS WELL...
HISATANI REALISES THAT TOO...
HAVE YOU CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE PATH TOWARDS BECOMING A PRO, 4TH DAN?
BUT, IT'S STILL FAR FROM WHERE YOU ARE.
Clench
YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH STRENGTH INTO YOUR SHOULDERS.

PILES OF VICTORIES,
THE HONOUR OF TITLES,
AND THE PRESSURE.
JUST BY CATCHING A GLIMPSE, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN GRAB IT.
Tremble Tremble Tremble
UNLESS YOU CAN BEAR THAT PRESSURE.
AND THAT'S THE REASON... YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST ME!

HISATANI-KUN IS PLAYING REALLY WELL.
Hmm...
YEAH... HE HASN'T MADE ANY BAD MOVES SO FAR...
HE'S GOOD, BUT WINNING'S IMPOSSIBLE.
HANI-MEIJIN'S NOT THAT GREEN.
Point
WHAT'S THIS... "IMPOSSIBLE", YOU SAY?
SO WHAT WOULD HE HAVE TO DO TO WIN AGAINST THE MEIJIN?

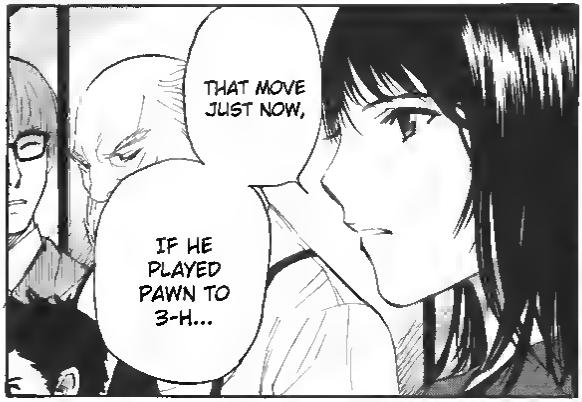
HE HAS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE,
AND PLAY HIS OWN MOVES ON THIS BOARD!
BUT IT'S TRUE!
IF YOU COULD DO THAT AGAINST THE MEIJIN, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY PROB-LEMS ...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M JUST A NEWBIE AT THIS,
BUT WHAT THAT KID SAID REALLY MAKES SENSE.
HIS OWN MOVES...

THIS MOVE...
Thump
Thump
IF ONLY I CAN PROTECT HERE,
THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST THIS MAN...!
I CAN DO IT!
Thump
THOSE EYES...

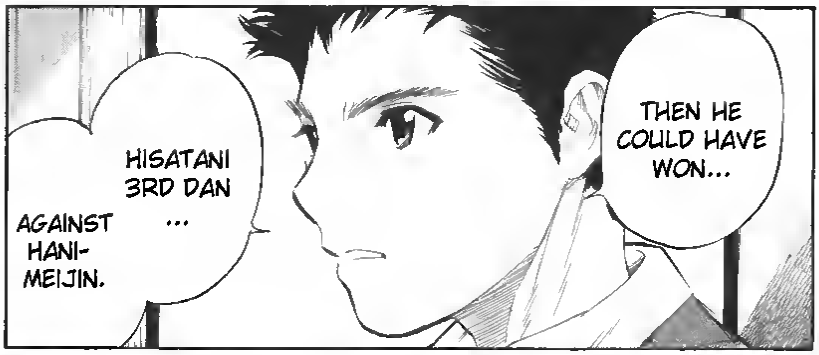
WHY AM I REMEMBERING SO MUCH FROM MY CHILDHOOD TODAY...?
SATORU USED TO LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES, ONCE UPON A TIME.
IS IT THAT KID'S FAULT?
I WON...
I REALLY WON AGAINST MAKOTO!
I'M THE STRONGER ONE AFTER ALL!
I'M THE STRON GEST!!

WE'RE STILL THE SAME AS BACK THEN...
Heh...
STRONGEST, HUH ...
DAMN! IF ONLY I CAN WIN... BUT WHICH DO I MOVE?!
THE MEIJIN IS LAUGHING... IS HE LOOKING DOWN AT ME?!
Heh!
MAYBE KNIGHT TO 2-H IS THE SAFER MOVE...?
MY GUT IS TELLING ME TO PLAY PAWN TO 3-H, BUT,
IF YOU'RE AIMING TO BE THE STRONGEST,
THERE'S NO TIME TO HESITATE.

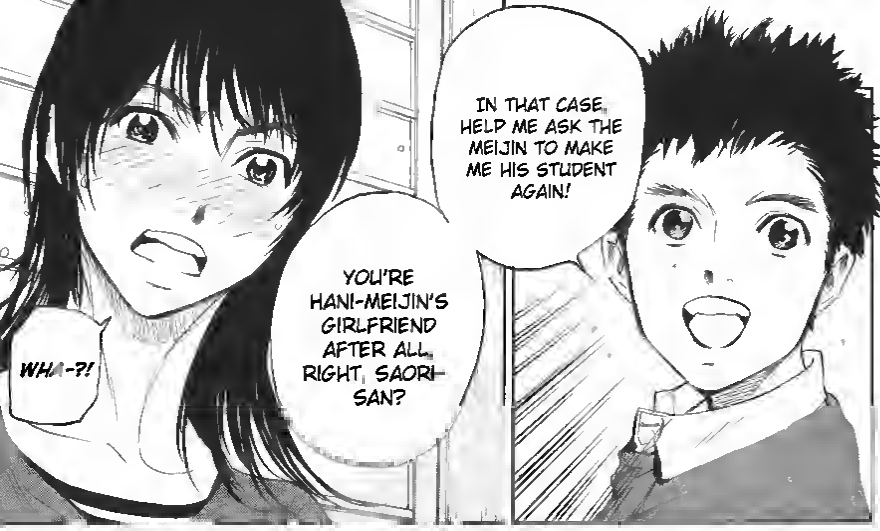
Thump
MOTHER,
I AM GOING TO TOKYO TO BECOME A PRO PLAYER!
Clack
KNIGHT TO 2-H...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST ME.

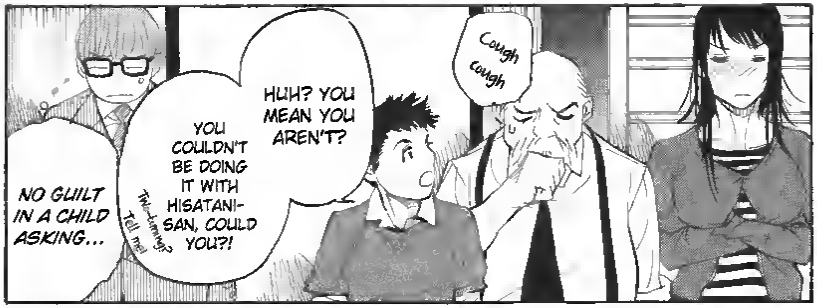

THAT MOVE JUST NOW,
IF HE PLAYED PAWN TO 3-H...

AAH!


THEN HE COULD HAVE WON...
HISATANI 3RD DAN ... AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN.

WE CAN'T JUST DECIDE THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE FROM THE GET GO... IS IT?
ME TOO,
FROM NOW ON, I'LL REMEMBER THAT.


IN THAT CASE, HELP ME ASK THE MEIJIN TO MAKE ME HIS STUDENT AGAIN!
YOU'RE HANI-MEIJIN'S GIRLFRIEND AFTER ALL, RIGHT, SAORI-SAN?
WHA-?!


Cough cough
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T?
YOU COULDN'T BE DOING IT WITH HISATANI-SAN, COULD YOU?!
Thudumm
Tell me!
NO GUILT IN A CHILD ASKING...

IT WAS A CLOSE GAME...
.....
Suuu
I WAS IN A TIGHT CORNER A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT WAS SAVED BY YOUR WEAK DEFENCES IN THE END,
PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU PLAYED THAT KNIGHT TO 2-H...
ぐぐぐ

SORRY, MEIJIN...
!!
PLEASE JUST FOR A BIT...
JUST FOR A BIT LONGER, LET ME SEE...
THIS BOARD...

AND NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY THE PAWN TO 3-H IS YOUR CURRENT LEVEL.
ONLY BEING ABLE TO PLAY THIS...
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CRY,
THEN YOU SHOULD SPEND IT WINNING IN THE 3RD DAN LEAGUE AND BECOME A PRO.
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY AGAINST ME AGAIN, THAT IS.
MEIJIN ...

HAVE YOU EVER CRIED,
AFTER LOSING A SHOGI MATCH?

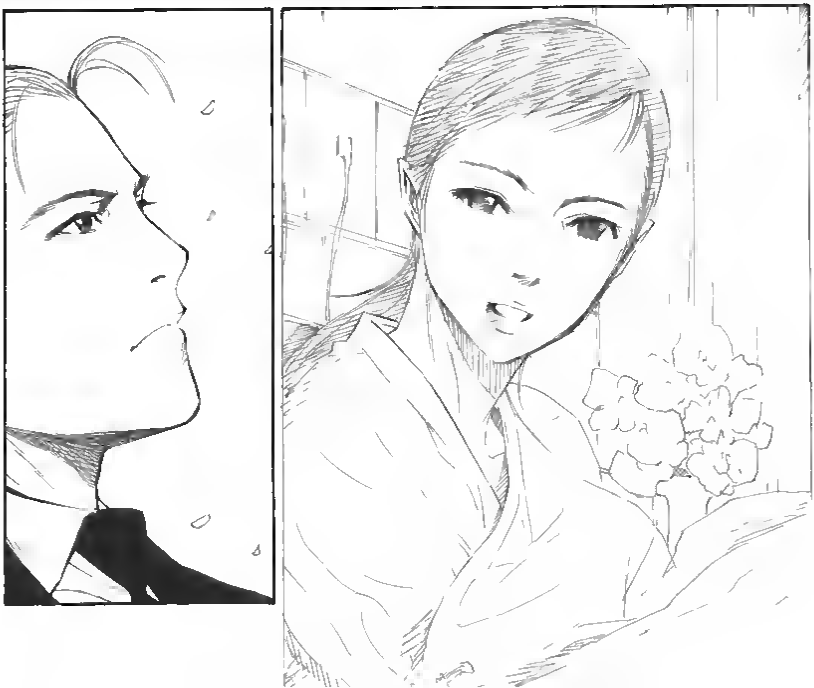
32nd Move End

Hey fellas. Long time no see.
Awkward...
I know you've missed me!
Tell them I wasn't dead! LOL
SCB Followers
Why would we miss you? Who are you anyway? You don't even reply to our comments. FOOL!
Anyway, it's been a long time since I worked on a manuscript/only chapter...
Here's some pics that I did
You see, many things happened...
I went on a trip to the UAE for six days.
and when I came back I faced many problems with my family and relatives.
I got depressed and didn't feel like doing anything.
I watched all my time sleeping, eating and playing video games to escape reality.
Sad Sis
No NEW content!
Even slept 11 hours a day or more sometimes and stayed UP to 9 hours in a row.
Do you have TB problem?
But once again, a simple email from Penelope cheered me up.
Thanks Pen! I really needed that.
So I thought to myself... Why should I ruin my life just because of some ego-holes?
I can ignore them and live as if they don't exist!
So I decided to do some more for the amazing scan-lation group.
Before I get back to scans though, let me tell you something funny that happened to me while I was in the UAE. Is anyone keen on hearing it?
Yes, do tell!
Well, it's not a first, but it's been a while.
While I was there, something really strange had started to me.
I was always sleepy and even if I slept for hours, I kept on feeling tired. I wanted to sleep more.
You see, I already have problems with my thyroid and if I'm not taking the right amount of potion I'll get lazy and sleepy.
I even slept once for 16 hours in a row without waking up because first time I wasn't taking any medicine.
But as long as I take my potion, this shouldn't happen... unless I missed a greater potion.
I haven't seen my doctor yet, but my appointment is coming up soon, so no need to worry.
Anyway, enough about that, now, guess what!
My brother and sister were always bothered by me because I would always say "I wanna sleep, I'm tired," every time we got out of the hotel in the UAE. They thought I was just being a spoiled brat and wasn't actually tired, until that happened...
AT THE MALL
AFTER WALKING FOR 30-40 MINUTES
Mmmm
I'll just rest my head a while...
A while...
Now that's a first... Sleeping while standing, I mean...
All I heard were voices calling me from afar...
Zzzzzzzz
Zzzzzzzz
Zzzzzzzz
Concerned relatives
What's wrong with her?
Is she sick?
Should we take her to the hospital?
Maybe she's just tired.
DAG!!
DAG!!
Why is she here?
You know that I don't like hospitals!
Maybe we should call a doctor!
Yes, please!
Hey, wake up!
Hey!
Hey!
Hey

33rd Move

Eyes from Heaven

MOTHER DIED.



LIKE THIS...
I'VE ALSO LOST MY REASON FOR PLAYING SHOGI.
MOTHER ...
IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
SAITOU-SAN!
I'M SORRY.
SINCE YOU, HER ONLY SON, ARE THE ATTENDING FAMILY MEMBER,
I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD TELL YOU...

HANI-
MEIJIN...?!

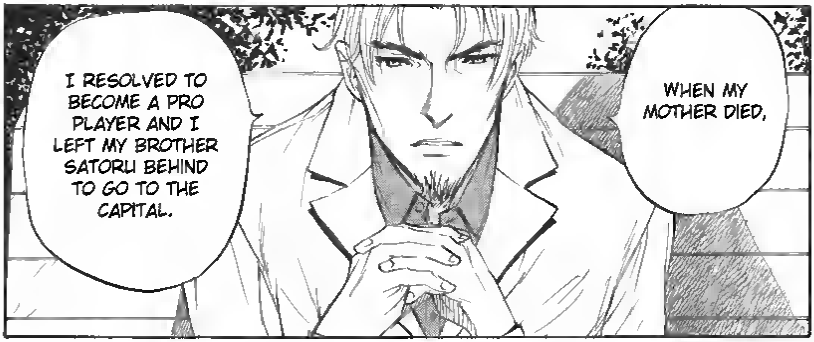
Rumble

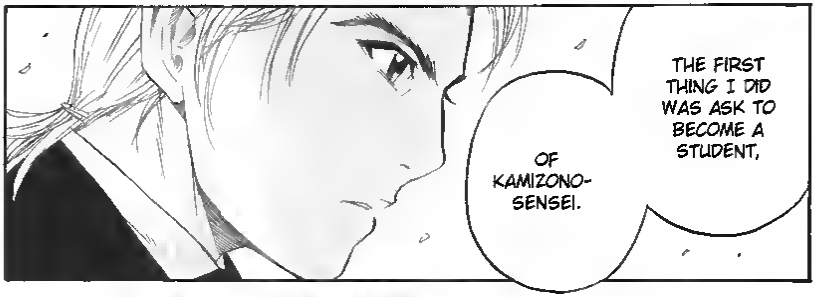
SAITOU
AYUMI-KUN.

I ONLY
JUST HEARD
ABOUT IT,
SORRY
FOR MY
ATTIRE,

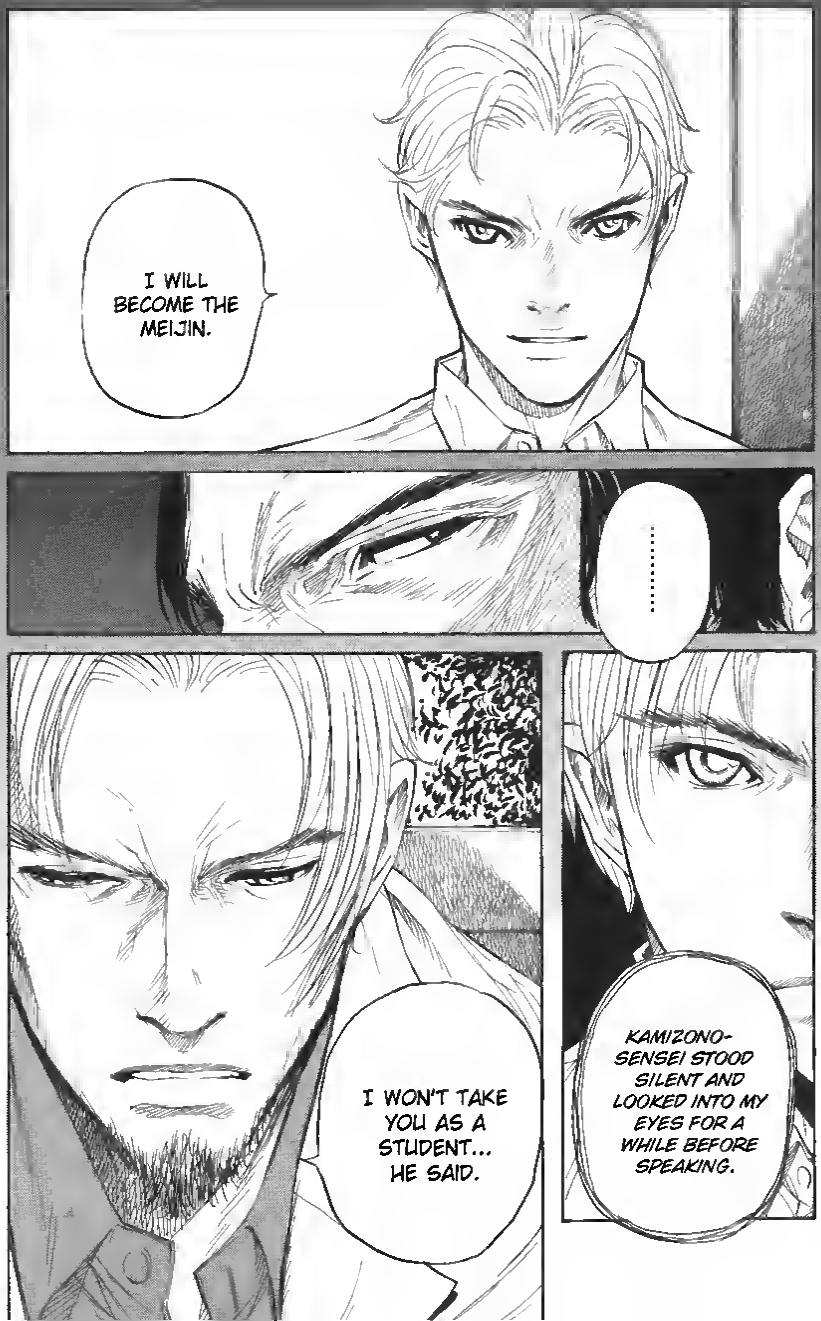
I WAS ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOU ARE...
IT REMINDS ME OF THE DAY MY MOTHER DIED,
IT WAS SNOWING THAT DAY.
SINCE WHEN...?
HAVE I KNOWN YOU WERE A BOY, YOU MEAN?

IT WAS ACTUALLY SINCE I HEARD THAT YOU BECAME KAMIZONO-SENSEI'S APPRENTICE.
NO,
FROM THE BEGINNING...
MY MASTER'S?!
WHEN I HEARD THAT, I DID A THOROUGH SEARCH INTO JUST WHO YOU WERE,
VERY THOROUGH.


WHEN MY MOTHER DIED,
I RESOLVED TO BECOME A PRO PLAYER AND I LEFT MY BROTHER SATORU BEHIND TO GO TO THE CAPITAL.


THE FIRST THING I DID WAS ASK TO BECOME A STUDENT,
OF KAMIZONO-SENSEI.

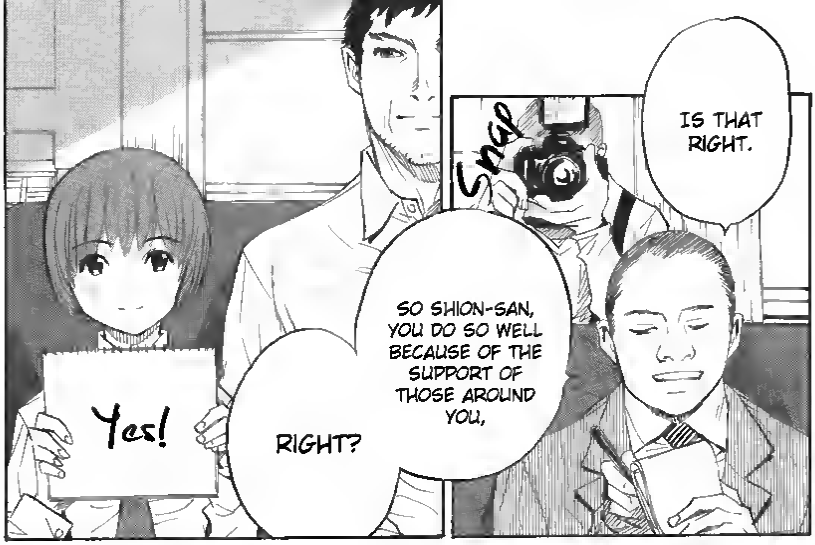
APPRENTICE?
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO AS MY APPRENTICE?

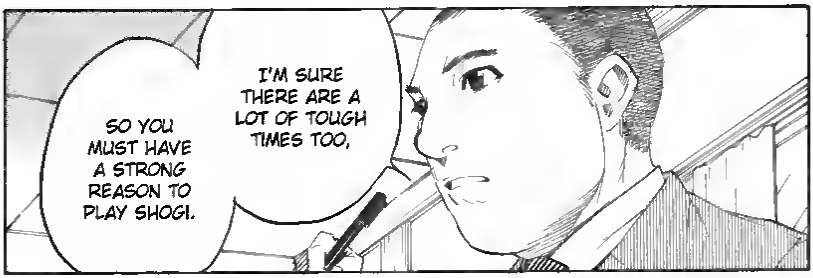

I WILL BECOME THE MEIJIN.
.....
KAMIZONO-SENSEI STOOD SILENT AND LOOKED INTO MY EYES FOR A WHILE BEFORE SPEAKING.
I WON'T TAKE YOU AS A STUDENT... HE SAID.

AND THAT'S WHY I WAS INTERESTED IN YOU.
THE ONE PLAYER THE GHOST OF KAMIZONO AGREED TO TAKE AS HIS STUDENT...
SAITOU AYUMI.
.....
YOU HAVE A MATCH WITH SATORU TOMORROW, DON'T YOU?
Pat
THE ONE HE'S PLAYED WITH THE MOST IS DEFINITELY ME,
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ASK ME ABOUT HIS PLAYING?
I WON'T BE PLAYING SHOGI ANYMORE,
I LOST MY REASON TO PLAY.
REASON...?

THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY,
SHOULDN'T NEED ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO PLAY...
LET'S SEND AYUMI-KUN A MESSAGE...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY AFTER ALL.
Yasuoka
Shinji
Sachiko
Shion

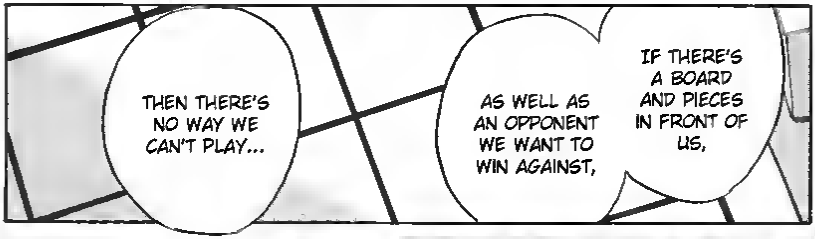
OY, ARE YOU AWAKE, SHION?
Stiffen
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING I NEED TO SAY EITHER.
WHAT SHOULD I SEND... MAYBE "GOOD MORNING"?
THERE'S A REPORTER DOWNSTAIRS WAITING TO TALK WITH YOU!
WHY ARE YOU STILL IN YOUR PAJAMAS?
Heh!
16
OX Times Evening Edition Interview
17
Tournam
23
.....


Yes!
SO SHION-SAN, YOU DO SO WELL BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OF THOSE AROUND YOU,
RIGHT?
Snap
IS THAT RIGHT.


I'M SURE THERE ARE A LOT OF TOUGH TIMES TOO,
SO YOU MUST HAVE A STRONG REASON TO PLAY SHOGI.

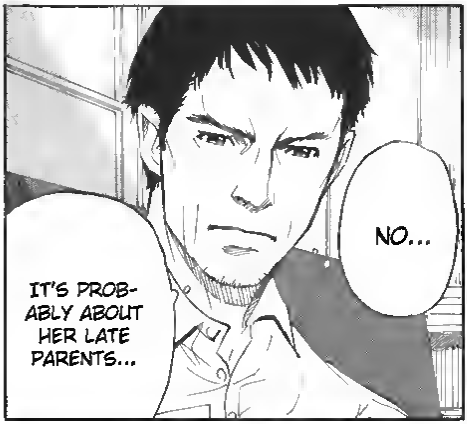
I WONDER IF I HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
TO FIND THE CRIMINAL MAYBE...?
REASON ...?

A REASON IS SOMETHING WE OFTEN DON'T UNDERSTAND OURSELVES.
SHION...?


THEN THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN'T PLAY...
AS WELL AS AN OPPONENT WE WANT TO WIN AGAINST,
IF THERE'S A BOARD AND PIECES IN FRONT OF US,

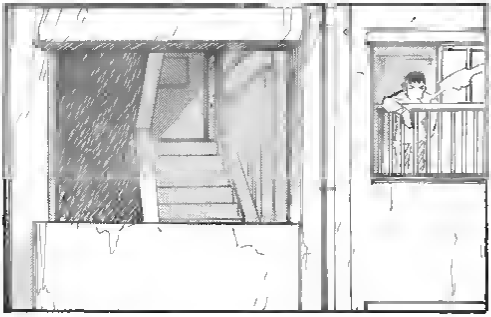
I SEE, I SEE, HMM...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY, THERE'S JUST ONE LAST THING THEN.
THAT'S WHAT A PRO PLAYER IS LIKE.

WRITE A WORD THAT YOU LIKE.
COULD SHION-SAN PAINT HER MOTTO ON THIS COLOURED PAPER FOR US?
A WORD THAT I LIKE...
Eyes from Heaven

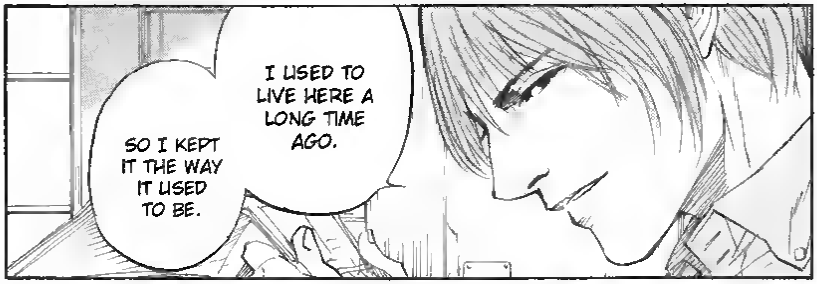

NO...
IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT HER LATE PARENTS...

EYES FROM HEAVEN
SO THAT MEANS THAT THE GOD OF SHOGI IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER YOU?

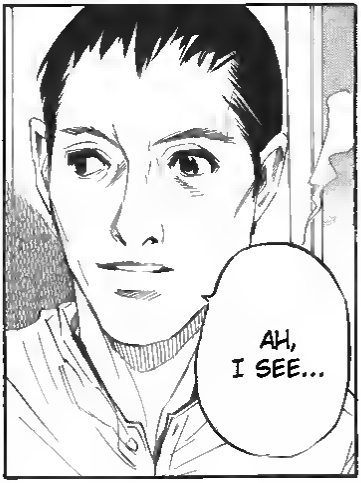
EYES FROM HEAVEN... HUH.
天眼



EH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE INTERESTING TASTES,
TO THINK THAT A RICH GUY LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE A HIDDEN HOUSE LIKE THIS OLD APARTMENT.


I USED TO LIVE HERE A LONG TIME AGO.
SO I KEPT IT THE WAY IT USED TO BE.

WHEN YOU WERE WITH KAZUMI-SAN...


AH, I SEE...

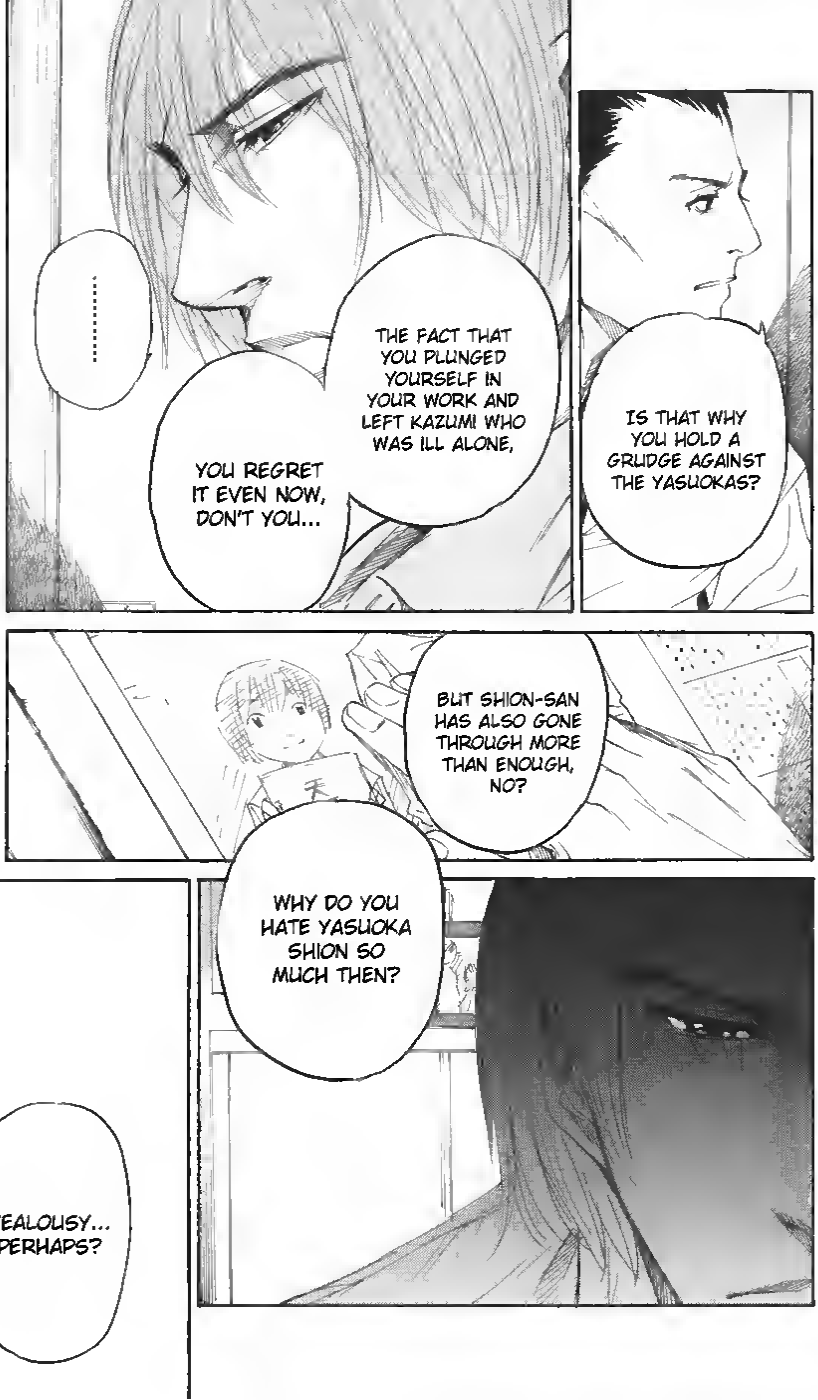
SO...
YOU SAY, BUT...
EVERYTHING'S WRITTEN IN THAT PAPER I GAVE YOU.
SO...?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW ISN'T THE FACTS BUT THE TRUTH.

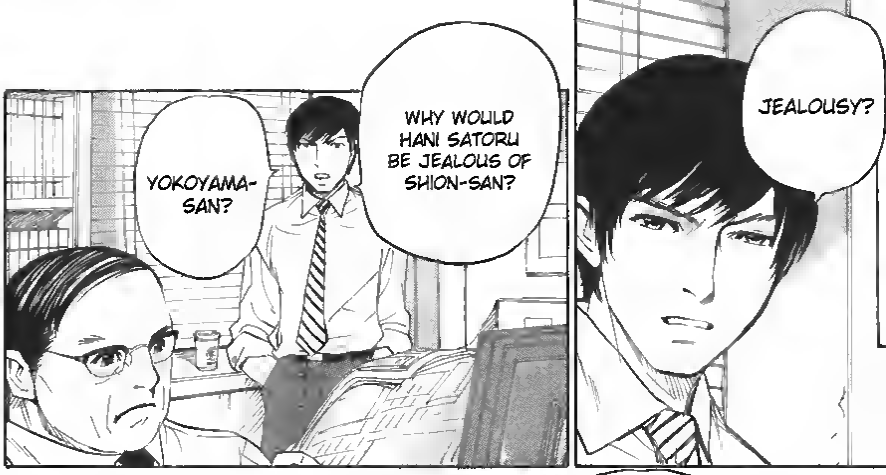
EIGHT YEARS AGO, YASUOKA SHION-... NO, I GUESS IT WOULD BE ISHIWATARI SHION. HER PARENTS WERE MURDERED BY SOMEONE.
AND THEN, THE DAY AFTER, YOUR GIRLFRIEND, SETO KAZUMI-SAN ALSO DIED...
ALL ALONE, HERE IN THIS VERY ROOM.
ACCORDING TO THE AUTOPSY, HER DEATH WAS CAUSED BY HER DISEASE THAT AFFECTED HER HEART.
THERE WERE NO WOUNDS ON HER CORPSE,
AND THERE WERE NO TRACES OF SUSPICIOUS DRUGS, SO THE POLICE ALSO DETERMINED SHE HAD DIED OF ILLNESS...
AND WHAT ABOUT YASUOKA SACHIKO'S BROTHER, KAZUYOSHI!?
AFTER THE INCIDENT, IT SEEMS HE FELL OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE YASUOKAS, DOESN'T IT...?
HE LIVES IN OKINAWA NOW, OPERATING A BUSINESS, THOUGH HE HASN'T BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL...

WHAT IS IT THAT IS BOTHERING YOU SO MUCH?
.....
BETWEEN THE MURDER INCIDENT OF THE ISHIWATARIS AND KAZUMI-SAN'S DEATH.
I THINK YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD TO MAKE SOME SORT OF LINK,
OR PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT BOTHERS YOU?
BUT ON ITS OWN, THAT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE,
IT'S TRUE THAT, AT THE TIME,
SETO KAZUMI WAS WORKING PART TIME AT THE COMPANY THAT MR. ISHIWATARI MANAGED,
JUST BEFORE SHE DIED...
KAZUMI MET YASUOKA SHION.

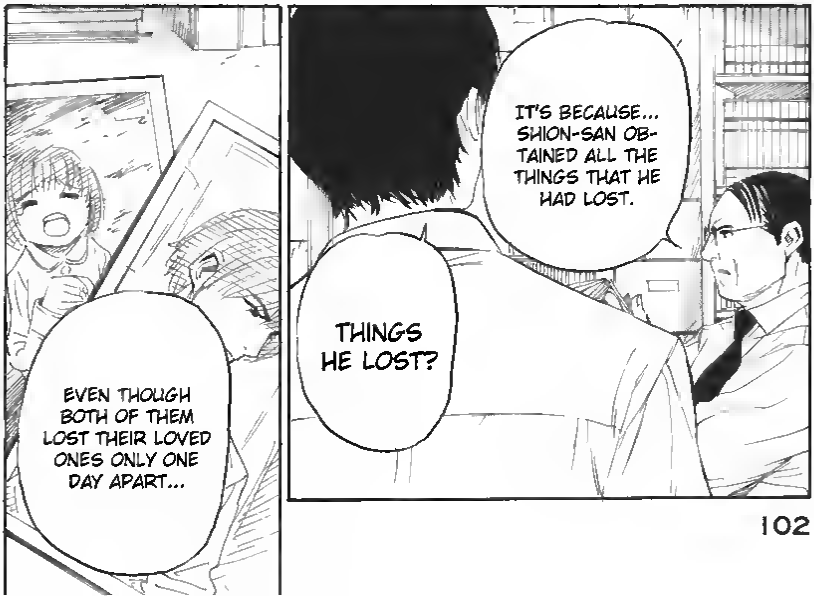
A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE INCIDENT, KAZUMI WENT TO THE YASUOKAS' PLACE TO LEARN SHOGI.
AND, AT THAT TIME, THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE, YASUOKA SACHIKO'S BROTHER KAZUYOSHI...
AND SHION, WHO WAS 4 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME, WERE ALL GATHERED.

KAZUMI WAS APPARENTLY LEARNING SHOGI SECRETLY IN ORDER TO SURPRISE ME,
BUT SHE LAUGHED AND TOLD ME SHE WASN'T SUITED FOR SHOGI ON THE PHONE.
AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I HEARD KAZUMI'S VOICE...

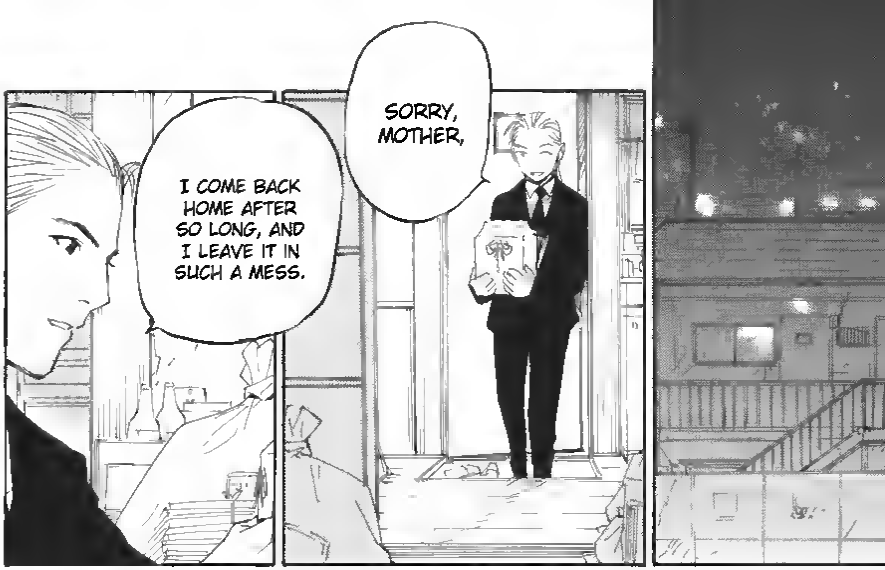

.....
YOU REGRET IT EVEN NOW, DON'T YOU...
THE FACT THAT YOU PLUNGED YOURSELF IN YOUR WORK AND LEFT KAZUMI WHO WAS ILL ALONE,
IS THAT WHY YOU HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE YASUOKAS?
BUT SHION-SAN HAS ALSO GONE THROUGH MORE THAN ENOUGH, NO?
WHY DO YOU HATE YASUOKA SHION SO MUCH THEN?
JEALOUSY... PERHAPS?

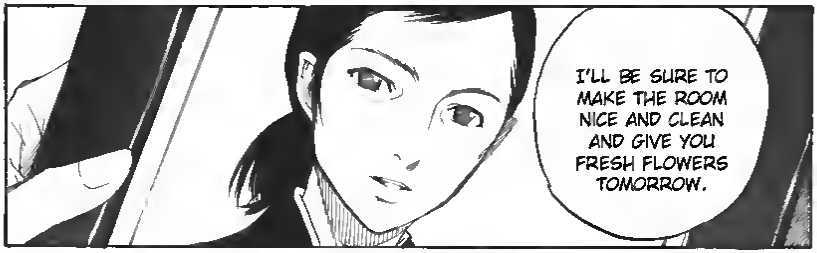

YOKOYAMA-SAN?
WHY WOULD HANI SATORU BE JEALOUS OF SHION-SAN?
JEALOUSY?

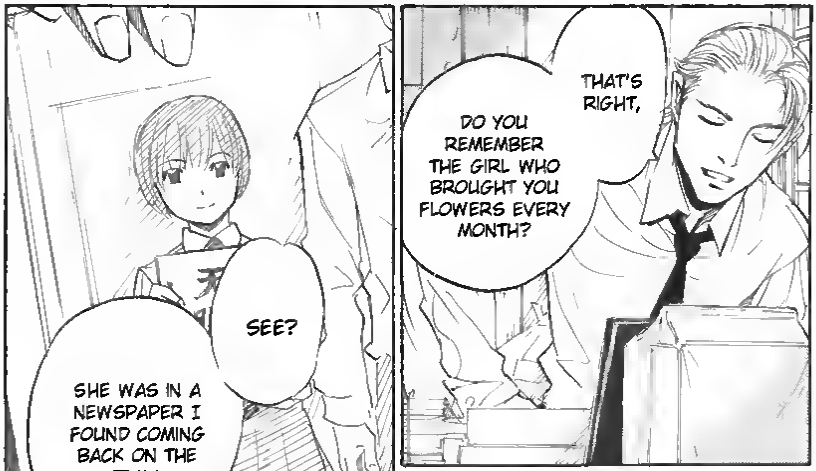
I MEAN, SHE LOST BOTH HER PARENTS AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO SPEAK...
WOULDN'T MOST PEOPLE FEEL COMPASSION FOR HER?
Eyes from Heaven


EVEN THOUGH BOTH OF THEM LOST THEIR LOVED ONES ONLY ONE DAY APART...
THINGS HE LOST?
IT'S BECAUSE... SHION-SAN OBTAINED ALL THE THINGS THAT HE HAD LOST.

SHION-SAN RECEIVED LOVE AND CARE UNDER A NEW ADOPTED FAMILY,
AND FOUND MEANING IN PLAYING SHOGI.
WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HANI SATORU WAS NEVER ABLE TO GET OVER THE DEATH OF HIS GIRLFRIEND, SETO KAZUMI,
AND MOREOVER, HE LOST HIS PLACE IN THE SHOGI WORLD TO THE BROTHER HE HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED A RIVAL.
SO HE CONTINUES TO FEEL HATE-...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S PROBABLY THAT EVEN NOW,
HE CAN'T FORGIVE HIMSELF FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE KAZUMI-SAN...


I COME BACK HOME AFTER SO LONG, AND I LEAVE IT IN SUCH A MESS.
SORRY, MOTHER,

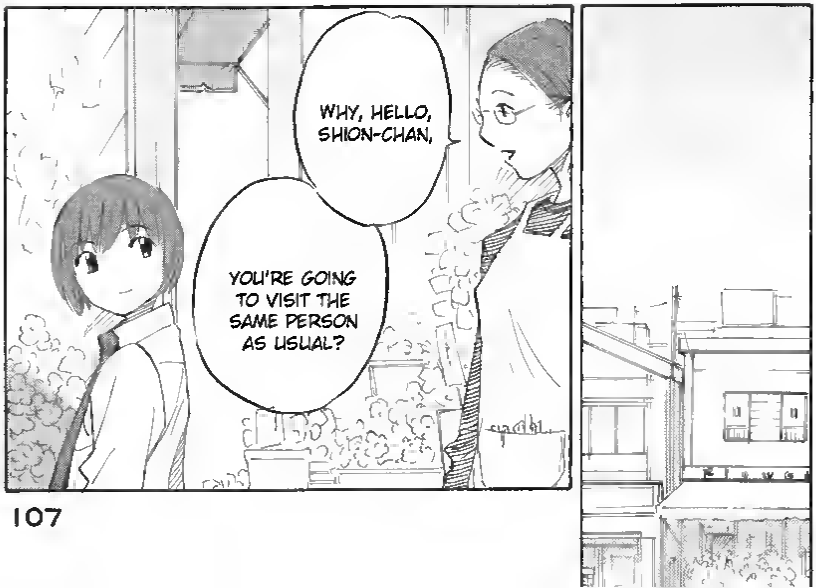

I'LL BE SURE TO MAKE THE ROOM NICE AND CLEAN AND GIVE YOU FRESH FLOWERS TOMORROW.


SHE WAS IN A NEWSPAPER I FOUND COMING BACK ON THE TRAIN.
SEE?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE GIRL WHO BROUGHT YOU FLOWERS EVERY MONTH?
THAT'S RIGHT,

BUT NOW THAT I'M QUITTING SHOGI,
I WON'T MEET HER AGAIN...
Dear Ayumi-kun,
Tomorrow's your big match against Satoru, isn't it. Do your best!
Shion
!?
PIKORO
TOMORROW ...

AAH... IT TOOK A WHOLE DAY JUST TO SEND A SMALL MESSAGE.
beep
I'LL BRING HER SOME PRETTY FLOWERS...
MAYBE I SHOULD GO SEE AYUMI-KUN'S MOTHER AT THE HOSPITAL BEFORE CHEERING HIM ON AT THE MATCH.
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T LIVE WITH IT AFTER ALL.
KAZUMI...

Clench
I SWEAR I'LL FIND OUT THE TRUTH,
YOUR DEATH AND SHION'S PARENTS' DEATH,
SO PLEASE WATCH OVER ME FROM HEAVEN...


WHY, HELLO, SHION-CHAN,
YOU'RE GOING TO VISIT THE SAME PERSON AS USUAL?

Yes!
THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY,
SHOULDN'T NEED ANY-THING LIKE THAT TO PLAY...
.....

I KNOW THAT ALREADY.
THAT I DON'T NEED SOMETHING LIKE THAT ANYMORE...
Stand
MOTHER,
I'LL... BE BACK SOON.

Hospital
Internal Medicine
External Medicine
Children's Hospital
Reception
EH... SAITOU-SAN?!
UM...
JUST WAIT A MOMENT, PLEASE.
.....?

YOU'RE... AYUMI-KUN'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
SAITOU-SAN SPOKE VERY HAPPILY ABOUT YOU,
SAYING THAT AYUMI-KUN HAD GOTTEN A REALLY CUTE GIRLFRIEND...
PLEASE,
LISTEN CALMLY,
TWO DAYS AGO, SAITOU-SAN...

I'LL HAVE TO TELL SHION SOONER OR LATER TOO...
Shogi Association

HER BOUQUET IS A MESS...
WIPE
SHE MUST HAVE RUN OVER HERE AFTER HEARING ABOUT IT AT THE HOSPITAL.
EYES FROM HEAVEN...
AYUMI... KUN...

MY MOTHER AS WELL...
IS SURELY WATCHING OVER US FROM WHEREVER SHE IS.

Today's Match
Saitou
Hani
Ayumi
SAITOU AYUMI, I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN TODAY.
BUT, IT WON'T DO AT IF I LOSE HERE.

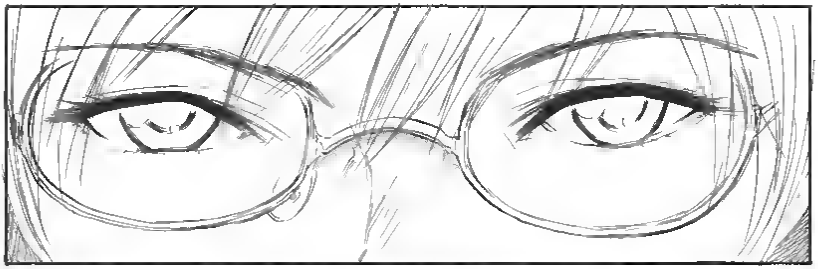
HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE,
YOU'RE WEARING QUITE THE STYLISH DRESS TODAY TOO.
ALMOST AS IF YOU CAME FROM AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL...

33rd Move END

34th Move

Contact

WHAT IS THIS ATMOSPHERE, EXACTLY...?
DETERMI-NATION?
NO, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...
IT FEELS CLEARER BUT ALSO SHARPER...



THOSE EYES... WHY DO THEY SEEM SO FAMILIAR...

GASP

BROTHER...
MAKOTO...?

IT'S THOSE EYES.
MAY I ASK HOW YOUR MOTHER IS?
NO WAY...

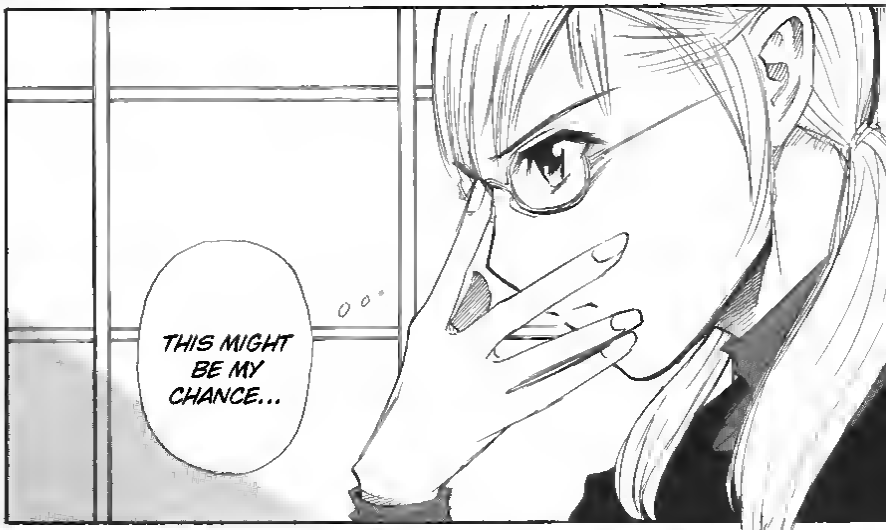
AM I UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO ANSWER YOU?
.....
BUT HAS HANI-MEIJIN COME BY HERE?
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR MATCH,
WHAT DID YOU NEED MY BROTHER FOR?

HAVE YOU CALLED HIS HOUSE?
WHEN I TRIED I GOT THE MESSAGE MACHINE,
ONE OF THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS HAS GONE THERE TO CHECK, JUST IN CASE.
HE STILL HASN'T APPEARED FOR HIS MATCH WITH KIMURA 9TH DAN,
AND I CAN'T REACH HIS MOBILE PHONE...
BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE SATORU-SAN WOULD KNOW ANOTHER WAY TO CONTACT HIM...?
.....
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT,
I HAVE A HOPELESS BROTHER WHO'S LATE.

HE'S ALMOST THE SAME,
.....
AS WHEN I WORRIED ABOUT MY MOTHER...
TAKE THIS,
IT'S NO GOOD, HE'S NOT PICKING UP HIS PRIVATE MOBILE PHONE EITHER.
THIS IS HIS SECRET HOUSE THAT ONLY HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT. TRY HERE IF IT'S NECESSARY.
I WILL.

GEEZ, MY BROTHER IS MAKING EVERYBODY UNNECESSARILY BUSY.
WELL, PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS UNNECESSARILY BUSY ANYWAY, YOU COULD SAY.
HAHA...
HE HAS HIS MOBILE BESIDE HIM EVEN DURING A MATCH...?
JUST HOW IMPORTANT,
IS HANI-MEIJIN TO THIS PERSON?

Click


THIS MIGHT BE MY CHANCE...

HOW DID IT GO?

I RECEIVED AN ALTERNATE CONTACT FROM SATORU-SAN, BUT HE ISN'T ANSWERING THIS ONE EITHER.
HMM...
I JUST HOPE HE WASN'T INVOLVED IN SOME ACCIDENT.

THE MATCHES WERE SUPPOSED TO START AT 10 O'CLOCK.
THOSE WHO ARE LATE ARE GIVEN A PENALTY BY TAKING AWAY 3 TIMES THE AMOUNT THAT THEY WERE LATE FROM THEIR CLOCK.
WHAT DO WE DO IF THE MEIJIN DOESN'T APPEAR?
IN THIS TOURNAMENT WHERE PLAYERS ARE GIVEN 3 HOURS OF TIME, IF HE'S LATE BY MORE THAN AN HOUR, THEN...
IT WILL BE HANI-MEIJIN'S LOSS.

AS I EXPECTED, HE'S PLAYING SLOPPILY...
IS HE EVEN MORE TROUBLED THAN I THOUGHT?
Click
I'VE HELD A SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE UNTIL THIS POINT.
IF I WIN THIS MATCH, THEN I'LL ENTER THE 3 PERSON FINALS!

BROTH-
ER...
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU ARE FORFEITING SINCE YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY AGAINST ME...?
TOKYO?
YES,
I'M GOING TO BE A PRO SHOGI PLAYER.

IF YOU CONTINUE PLAYING MATCHES, YOU'LL BE UNHAPPY.
EH?
THEN ME TOO!
YOU CAN'T.
SATORU, STOP PLAY-ING SHOGI.
MAKOTO...?

WHY ARE YOU LEAV- ING ME BEHIND?!
WHY?
Clack
EH?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT BACK THEN...?

Today's Matches
Hani
Kimura
I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED ALL OF YOU.
I HAD A PROBLEM WITH MY CONTACT LENSES AND HAD TO GO TO THE OPTICIAN. THEY TOOK LONGER THAN I HAD EXPECTED.
SATORU-SAN, HANI-MEIJIN HAS ARRIVED.
IT'S NO BIG MATTER, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.
ARE YOUR EYES FINE NOW? IF THEY PROVE AN OBSTACLE TO YOUR PLAYING, THEN...
BROTHER ...

BROTH-
ER!
IF YOU'RE REALLY A SHOGI PRO...
THEN EVEN IF YOU'RE TOLD I DIED, YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE YOUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE BOARD.

IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME,
THEN YOU NEED AT LEAST THAT MUCH RESOLVE...
.....

SHION!
Shake shake
WHY ARE YOU SITTING HERE ALL ALONE? ISN'T SAITOU-SAN IN A MATCH?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO THE REVIEW-ING ROOM?

AYUMI-KUN...
RESOLVE, YOU SAY...?
OF COURSE I'M RESOLVED.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...

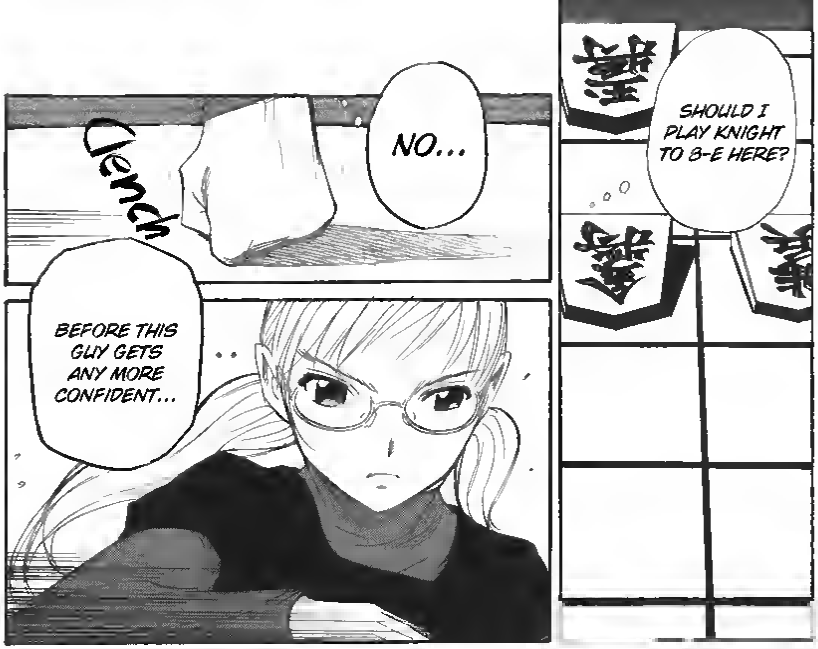
WHAT I'VE LIVED THROUGH?
Clack
Clack
BUT IF I PLAY KING TO THE SAME SQUARE, I STILL HAVE A DEFINITE ADVANTAGE.
Huh!
PROMOTED SILVER TO 4-C...
EVER SINCE HANI-MEIJIN CAME, HIS MOVES HAVE SUDDENLY BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE.

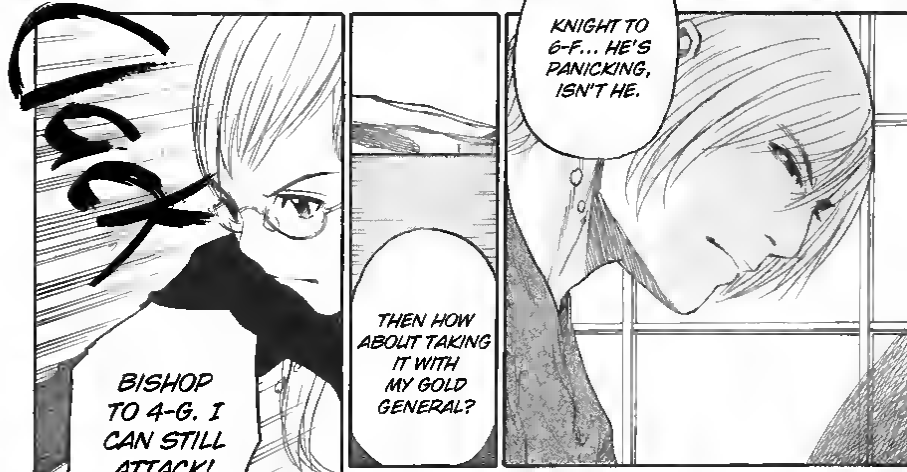
HIS PROMOTED ROOK TO 5-A, HOW COULD I HAVE OVER-LOOKED SUCH A SIMPLE MOVE...
CALM DOWN, DON'T YOU WANT TO PLAY AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN?!
Clack
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW, BROTHER,
I CONTINUED TO LINE UP THE PIECES IN THAT ROOM I WAS LEFT ALONE IN.
EVEN WITHOUT MUCH MONEY, I WOULD STILL MAKE SURE TO BUY SHOGI MAGAZINES,
AND I SAW A RECORD OF EVERY GAME YOU PLAYED.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, BROTHER?
AFTER THAT DAY, I STILL CONTINUED PLAYING WITH YOU.
EH?
THE TIDE TURNED, DIDN'T IT.
WHAT'S BECOME OF THIS GAME?
OH, HISATANI-KUN AND... SAORI-SAN?!
HMM ...

NO, NO!
WE JUST MET BY COINCIDENCE AT THE STATION...
.....
DID YOU TWO COME TOGETHER?
IS THE FIRST PLAYER SATORU-SAN?
SAITOU-SAN LOOKS CORNERED, DOESN'T SHE?
WAS HE MAKING A FEINT?
NO... YOU SEE, HANI-MEIJIN WAS LATE FOR HIS MATCH,
AND WE JUST WENT TO ASK IF HE HAD ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION,
IT WAS THE OPPOSITE UP UNTIL A FEW MOVES AGO,
SATORU-SAN HAD A TERRIBLE OPENING GAME.

BUT WHEN WE DID, HE SUDDENLY STARTED PLAYING REALLY SLOPPILY...
IT SEEMS HE JUST WENT TO AN OPTICIAN.
HE STILL MADE IT IN TIME TO JOIN HIS GAME THOUGH.
HANI IS NEVER LATE... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HIM?!
SO, UNTIL THE MID-GAME, IT WAS SAITOU WHO WAS ATTACKING,
BUT AS SOON AS HANI-MEIJIN RETURNED, SATORU-SAN HAS BECOME A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLAYER ...


SHOULD I PLAY KNIGHT TO 8-E HERE?
NO...
Clench
BEFORE THIS GUY GETS ANY MORE CONFIDENT...

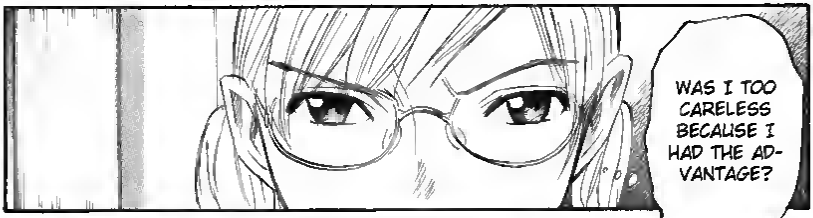

KNIGHT TO 6-F... HE'S PANICKING, ISN'T HE.
THEN HOW ABOUT TAKING IT WITH MY GOLD GENERAL?
Clack
BISHOP TO 4-G. I CAN STILL ATTACK!

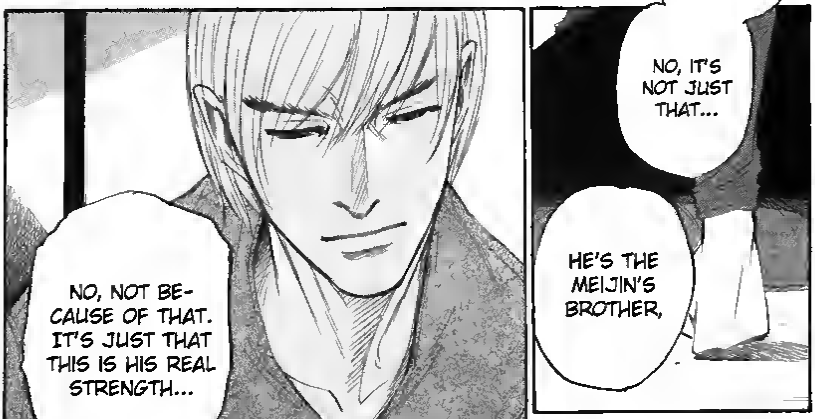
.....
QUITE FRISKY, AREN'T YOU ...
BISHOP TO 4-G, TAKE IT WITH A SILVER GENERAL, GOLD TO 7-G...
EVEN IF SAITOU KEEPS ON ATTACKING HERE,
I DON'T THINK IT WILL LEAD TO A CHECKMATE, WILL IT?
YES.
AND SHE ENDED UP HANDING HER KNIGHT OVER TO HER OPPONENT.

HE DROPPED THE KNIGHT TO 5-E!
THE ONE TO FIGHT MY BROTHER IN THE FINALS IS NOT YOU...
AND IT'S NOT GOING TO BE YASUOKA SHION EITHER.
Clack
IT'S ME.

CAN HE CHECKMATE HER?
PROBA-BLY...
EVEN IF SAITOU'S KING CAN RUN AWAY TO 1-E,
SATORU CAN STILL PLAY...

Ugh
HIS BISHOP.


WAS I TOO CARELESS BECAUSE I HAD THE ADVANTAGE?


NO, IT'S NOT JUST THAT...
HE'S THE MEIJIN'S BROTHER,
NO, NOT BECAUSE OF THAT. IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS HIS REAL STRENGTH...

IT'S MY LOSS...
I WANT...
TO BECOME STRONG-ER!

THIS WAS QUITE A HARSH DEFEAT FOR SAITOU-SAN...
Hani Satoru Amateru
LOSING A GAME WHERE SHE HAD A GLIMPSE OF VICTORY,
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T GET DEPRESSED FROM THE SHOCK...
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO HANI-MEIJIN?
SATO-RU-SAN, AND...?
SO, LET'S SEE, WITH THIS, WE'RE LEFT WITH...
HE APPARENT-LY WON WITH EASE,
EVEN WITH DIMINISHED TIME, HE HAD SOME REMAINING AT THE END OF THE MATCH.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THE LAST FINALIST
WILL BE DECIDED BY SHION'S MATCH TOMORROW.
THAT'S RIGHT... I LOST AGAINST HANI SATORU...
AND...
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY A FEW DAYS AGO.
I SEE...
SO... WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO FROM NOW ON?
I WANT TO GET STRONGER... FOR NOW, THAT'S ALL.
Fwip
SO,

34th Move END

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

32話の羽仁・久谷対局。名人を相手にどう戦ったか！

デパートの将棋祭、将棋のイベントなどでプロと将棋を指したことのある方は、とてつもない緊張感がおわかりになると思います。

いつもの自分じゃないんですよね。

久谷は奨励会三段で羽仁名人のようになりたい、という憧れの強さが本対局では裏目に出てしまいました。

第1図をご覧ください。

羽仁の王様は詰みませんが、先手の久谷王は☖2八歩と打たれたら簡単に詰んでしまいます。

久谷の理想としては、ここでしっかり受けて、一手あけば詰めろをかける、というのが勝つ道。しかし秒に追われて、格言通り「敵の打ちたいところに打て」の感覚で慌てて、第2図のように☗2八桂を打ってしまったのです。以下☖3八角☗1八王に☖2六歩であっという間に終わってしまったのです。☗1八王に☗2六歩という筋を読めていなかったのです。

第1図☗3八歩と打てば残っていたようです。

将棋の怖さは、一手の違いで大逆転すること、精神面が指し手になってあらわれるところでしょうネ。

皆さんがもし、プロの先生と指せるチャンスに恵まれても相手の顔を見ないようにするべし。

本間少年のように怖いもの知らずの子供の気持ちでいるといいんでしょうけど。

しかし、将棋で子供相手に負けることほどムカつくことはないですよネ。

（第1図は☖1二香まで）

☗先手 久谷啓司 持駒 飛二金桂歩二

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九

☖先手 羽仁もと人 持駒 角金歩二

（第2図は☖2八桂まで）

☗先手 久谷啓司 持駒 飛二金歩二

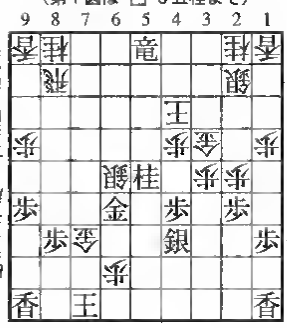
一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九

☖先手 羽仁もと人 持駒 角金歩二

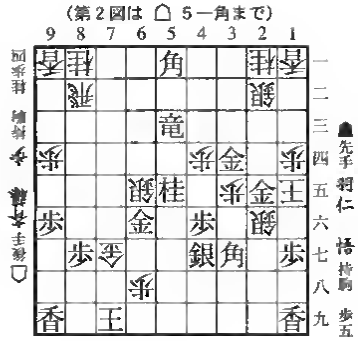
対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は ☖ 5五桂まで）



（第2図は ☖ 5一角まで）



34話の歩・悟対局。「女流棋士」歩の転機になるか！

将棋が少しできるくらいの実力の人は、王手飛車ができると喜びますが、プロの場合は王手飛車の筋があるとわかった瞬間に、何かワナがあるなと必ず用心します。取れる駒でもすぐ取るナって格言がありますから。

しかし、どんなに将棋の実力があろうと一番厄介なのは、プレッシャーです。アイススケートの選手が本番でコケてしまうのと同じようなもの。プレッシャーで読みがズレてしまうんですよね、将棋でも。いつもの具合じゃこんな手指さないのに…なんて事もあります。

本編、羽仁悟と斉藤歩の終盤です。

終盤の一手のミスは大きいのですが、羽仁は正確に攻めていきます。

第1図をご覧ください。

時間のある方は、後手玉の寄せを頭の中で考えてください。

☗5五桂に☖3三王☗5三竜☖2四王☗2五歩☖同金☗3四金☖1五王☗3七角☖2六銀☗5一角まで羽仁悟の勝ちで、第2図となり歩が残念ながら負けてしまいました。

第2図から☖3三銀としても、☗同角成から☗1六銀で詰んでしまいます。

羽仁名人と兄弟である弟の悟は、終盤で間違いなくトドメを刺せるので強いのでしょう。

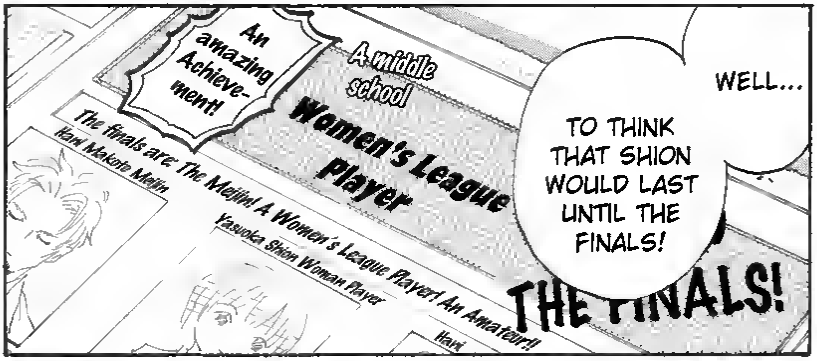
歩は、まだ若く相手のペースに飲まれてる自分に気がつかなかったのが敗因と言えるでしょう。

でも、人は負けて強くなるもの。歩の実力が更にアップするのを期待しましょう。

35th Move

The Next Move

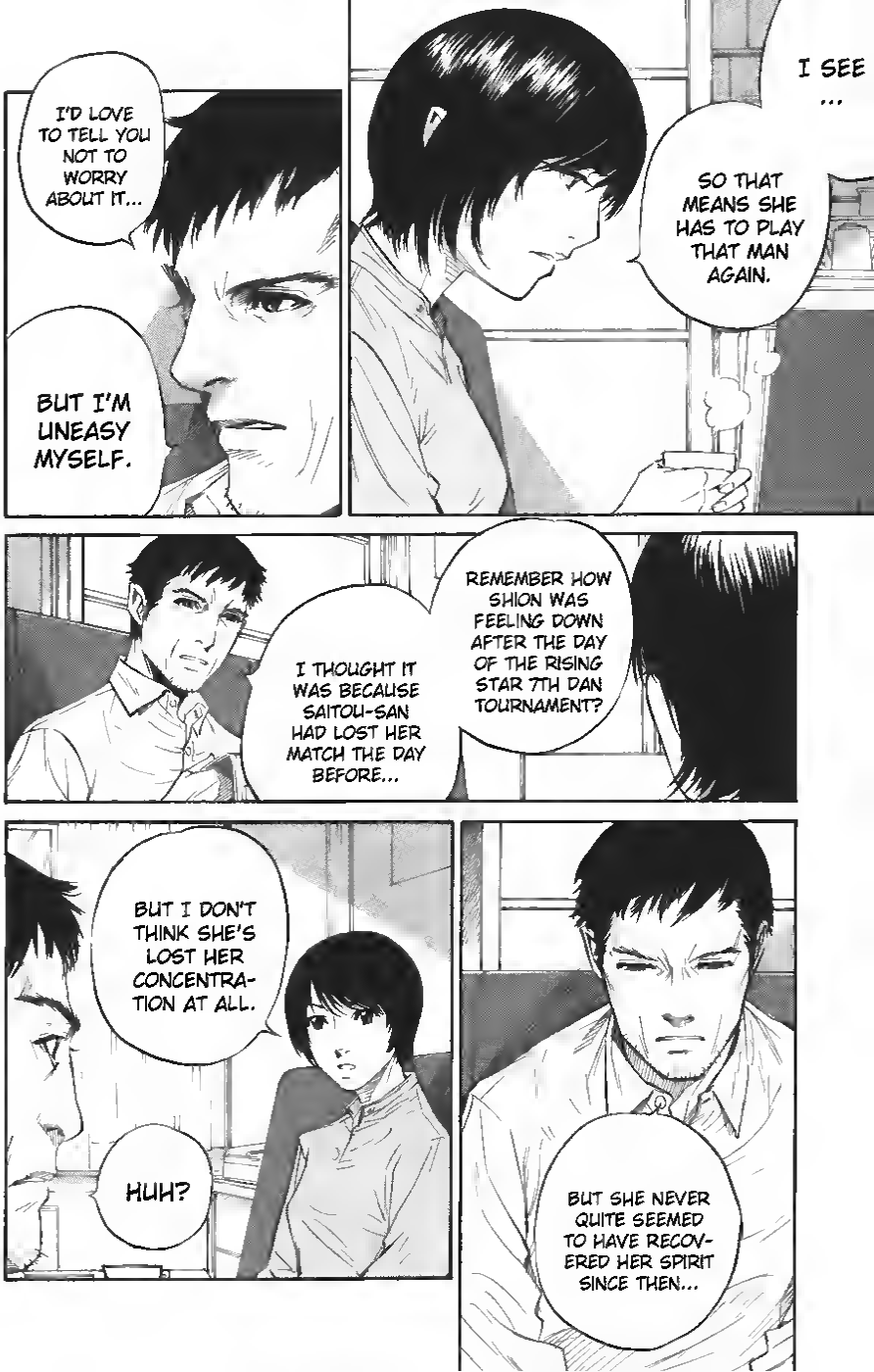
YASUOKA
SHINJI
SACHIKO
SHION


An amazing Achievement
A middle school Women's League Player
The finals are: The Meijin! A Women's League Player! An Amateur!!
Hand Makoto Meijin
Yasuoka Shion Woman Player
Hand
WELL...
TO THINK THAT SHION WOULD LAST UNTIL THE FINALS!
THE FINALS!

BUT, MAMA,
THIS IS REALLY AN AMAZING THING, YOU KNOW?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT, DID YOU, PAPA?
AND WHY DO YOU SAY "TO THINK THAT"...?

THIS IS REALLY AMAZ-ING!
YES, YES,
BUT I'M NOT SUR-PRISED AT ALL,
FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER TO REMAIN UNTIL THE THREE PERSON FINALS,
IN A TOURNAMENT WHERE MEN'S LEAGUE PLAYERS... NOT TO MENTION SOME OF THE TOP PLAYERS WERE PARTICIPATING...
AFTER ALL, SHION IS AN AMAZING GIRL.
WHAT DO YOU DO IN A SHOGI FINALS WITH THREE PEOPLE?
BUT, I DON'T REALLY UN-DERSTAND...
WELL... THAT'S THE TRUTH.
SO BASICALLY, THE WINNER OF THE MATCH BE-TWEEN SHION AND HANI SATORU WILL PLAY AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN.
THE MEIJIN IS A SEED HERE,


I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT...
BUT I'M UNEASY MYSELF.
I SEE ...
SO THAT MEANS SHE HAS TO PLAY THAT MAN AGAIN.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE SAITOU-SAN HAD LOST HER MATCH THE DAY BEFORE...
REMEMBER HOW SHION WAS FEELING DOWN AFTER THE DAY OF THE RISING STAR 7TH DAN TOURNAMENT?
BUT I DON'T THINK SHE'S LOST HER CONCENTRATION AT ALL.
HUH?
BUT SHE NEVER QUITE SEEMED TO HAVE RECOVERED HER SPIRIT SINCE THEN...

YES, FROM THE SOUND OF HER FEET.
HER FEET?!
YOU CAN TELL THAT KIND OF THING, SACHIKO?
BY LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF SOMEONE'S FEET, YOU CAN TELL WHAT THEIR MOOD IS LIKE THAT DAY.
AND MINE TOO?
WHEN SHE'S CONFIDENT, HER FOOTSTEPS ARE ALSO SEDATE,
WHEN SHE CAN'T CONCENTRATE, HER FOOTSTEPS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE... IT'S THE SAME AS INSIDE HER HEART.
SHION'S FOOTSTEPS LATELY...
ARE IDENTICAL TO YOURS WHEN YOU HEAD OUT TO A MATCH.

SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
THUMP THUMP
THE "I JUST FINISHED MY HOMEWORK AND WANT A SNACK" FOOTSTEPS.
LET'S SEE, THESE FOOTSTEPS ARE...
SEE?
WAHAHA! IT WORKED!
?

SHION,
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

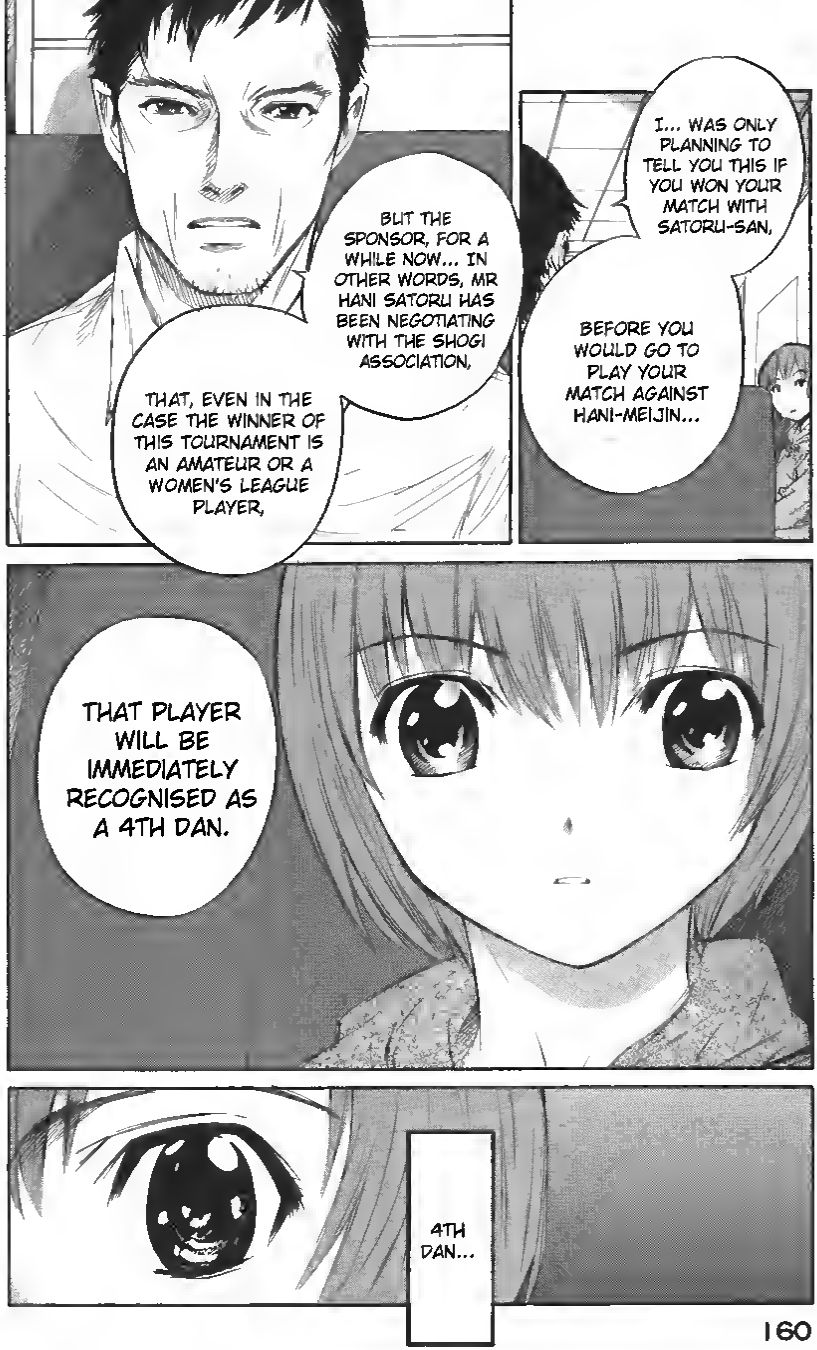
HMM...
THAT'S GOOD, BUT I WAS ACTUALLY WONDERING ABOUT SHOGI.

I'm totally ready for the end of term exam!

THE REASON WE PLAY SHOGI...

ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT WHAT THAT REPORTER ASKED YOU THE OTHER DAY?

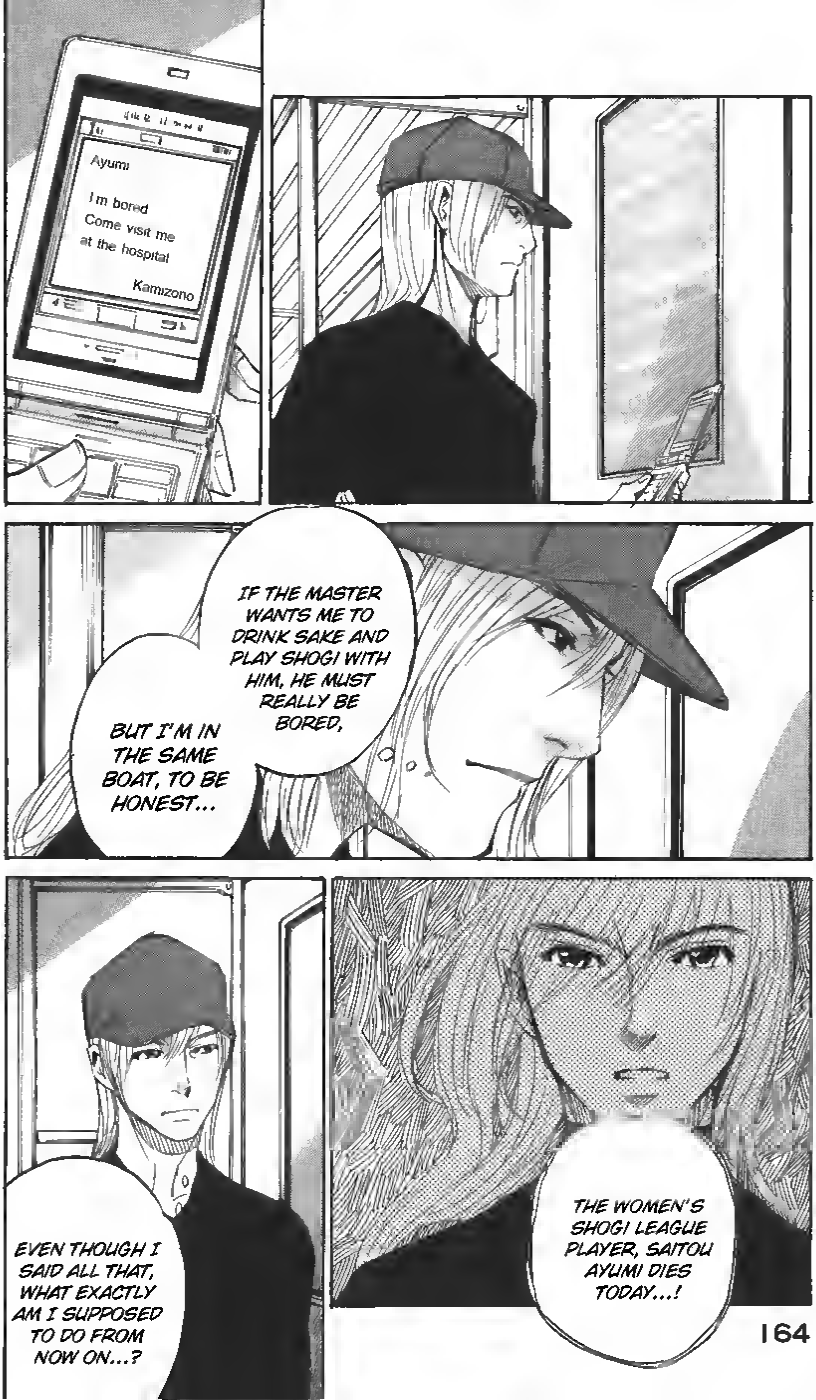
.....


I... WAS ONLY PLANNING TO TELL YOU THIS IF YOU WON YOUR MATCH WITH SATORU-SAN,
BEFORE YOU WOULD GO TO PLAY YOUR MATCH AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN...
BUT THE SPONSOR, FOR A WHILE NOW... IN OTHER WORDS, MR HANI SATORU HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION,
THAT, EVEN IN THE CASE THE WINNER OF THIS TOURNAMENT IS AN AMATEUR OR A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER,
THAT PLAYER WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISED AS A 4TH DAN.
4TH DAN...

SHION...
YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEANING BEHIND THIS, RIGHT?
IF YOU WIN AGAINST SATORU-SAN IN THE NEXT MATCH,
AND THEN AGAINST HANI-MEIJIN AS WELL, YOU WON'T REMAIN A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER AS YOU ARE NOW, BUT YOU'LL BE A FULL SHOGI LEAGUE PLAYER LIKE US OLD MEN.
SHOULDN'T YOU THINK OF THIS AFTER YOU WIN?
I WOULD BE A LEAGUE PLAYER...?
YEAH,
THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE WISER,

BUT STILL, THIS IS A HUGE CHANCE FOR SHION.
OF COURSE, I'M SURE THERE'S A LOT OF OPPOSITION FROM INSIDE THE ASSOCIATION,
BUT IT SEEMS AS IF SATORU-SAN HAS DONATED AN IMPRESSIVE SUM OF MONEY, WHICH HAS GIVEN HIM A LOT OF WEIGHT IN THE ASSOCIATION.
I IMAGINE THE BOARD WILL AGREE TO HIS DEMANDS...
I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND ALREADY,
BUT A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER AND A WOMAN LEAGUE PLAYER ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IF YOU BECOME A 4TH DAN, THEN YOU WILL PLAY UNDER IDENTICAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE MEN SHOGI PLAYERS...
THE NUMBER OF MATCHES OPEN TO YOU AND THE LEVEL OF YOUR OPPONENTS WILL ALSO BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM UP UNTIL NOW.

IF YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE PLAYING SHOGI AS A CAREER,
THEN THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WILL HAVE TO DECIDE...
WHETHER TO REMAIN UNDEFEATED AS A WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLAYER,
OR WHETHER TO BREAK OUT FROM THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE... AND AIM FOR


Ayumi
I'm bored
Come visit me
at the hospital
Kamizono
IF THE MASTER WANTS ME TO DRINK SAKE AND PLAY SHOGI WITH HIM, HE MUST REALLY BE BORED,
BUT I'M IN THE SAME BOAT, TO BE HONEST...
EVEN THOUGH I SAID ALL THAT, WHAT EXACTLY AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FROM NOW ON...?
THE WOMEN'S SHOGI LEAGUE PLAYER, SAITOU AYUMI DIES TODAY...!

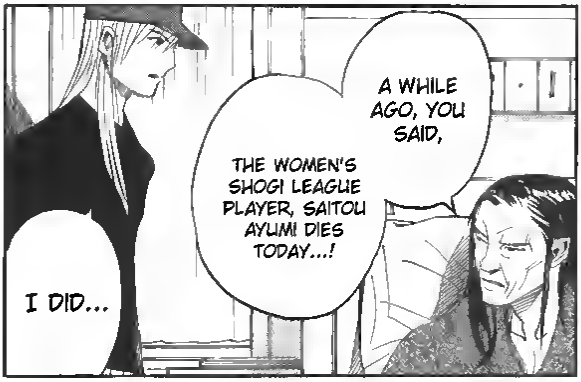
WHAT BEAUTIFUL HAIR!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M JEALOUS.
OH, HE LOOKED AT US!
AND HIS FACE IS PRETTY TOO~~~
HE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL!
Sta
TCH
Squish
LOOKS LIKE... A GIRL, HUH?
Kamizono
IT'S ME, SAITOU, I'M COMING IN.

HEY,
AYUMI... YOU FINALLY GOT HERE...
WHY IS HANI-MEIJIN HERE...?
WHAT'S WITH YOUR TONE?
IS IT SO STRANGE FOR HANI-KUN TO COME VISIT ME AT THE HOSPITAL?

OH, NOT AT ALL...
MY APOLOGIES.
.....
HOW IS YOUR HEALTH?
DID YOU RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION...?
WELL, THEY MADE ALL SORTS OF CHECKS, BUT WHEN THEY FOUND OUT WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS, THE DOCTOR JUST STAYED SILENT,
IF FEELS LIKE I'M BACKED INTO A CORNER.
SO I'M JUST ENJOYING THE SAKE I SNEAK IN!
MAS-
TER!

PLEASE,
LISTEN PROPERLY TO WHAT THE DOCTOR SAYS.
YOU'RE... MY ONE AND ONLY MASTER.

OIOI...
DON'T MAKE AN OLD MAN LIKE ME START CRYING, BOY.

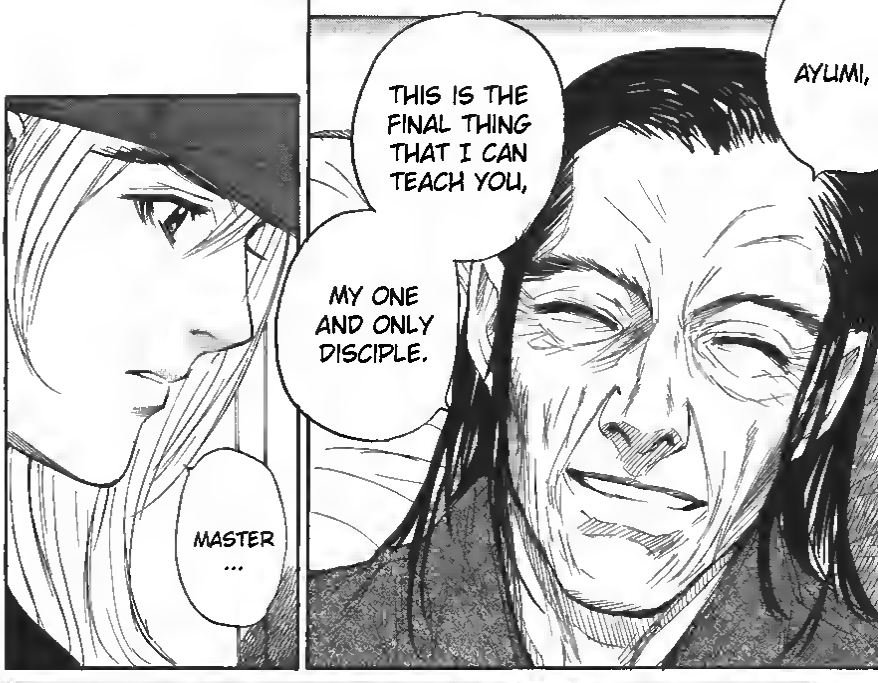

A WHILE AGO, YOU SAID,
THE WOMEN'S SHOGI LEAGUE PLAYER, SAITOU AYUMI DIES TODAY...!
I DID...

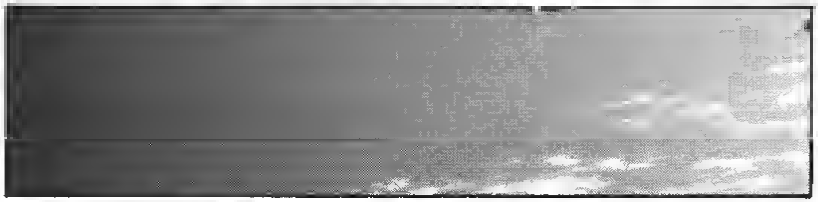
AYUMI...
YES?

I... STILL DON'T KNOW.
BUT, I DECIDED I WON'T PLAY SHOGI JUST FOR MONEY WHILE CROSS-DRESSING ANYMORE.
SO? WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO FROM NOW ON?
I BELIEVE I WAS PRETTY CLEAR.
THAT TIME YOU CAME TO ASK TO BE MY DISCIPLE,
THAT IT WAS UNDER THE CONDITION THAT YOU'D ONLY EVER PLAY TO MAKE MONEY.
AYUMI...
YOU'RE EXPELLED AS MY STUDENT FROM THIS DAY FORTH.
!?

SAITOU-KUN,
MASTER, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
WITHOUT YOU, MASTER, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
INSTEAD,
YOU WILL BE MY APPRENTICE FROM NOW ON.
I CAN'T BE THE APPRENTICE OF THE MAN I MOST WANT TO DEFEAT!
I CAN'T ...

YOU FOOL!
IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE HE'S THE MAN YOU WANT TO DEFEAT THAT YOU SHOULD BE HIS DISCIPLE.
HEH...
PRECISELY BECAUSE I WANT TO DEFEAT HIM, YOU SAY?
MAKE USE OF ANY STRENGTH YOU HAVE,
YOU HAVE BOTH THE TALENT AND DETERMINATION,
SO DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE, KEEP ON PLAYING!
YOU SAID YOU WERE ONLY THERE FOR THE MONEY, BUT YOU'VE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE WORLD OF THE COMPETITIONS, RIGHT?


AYUMI,
THIS IS THE FINAL THING THAT I CAN TEACH YOU,
MY ONE AND ONLY DISCIPLE.
MASTER ...



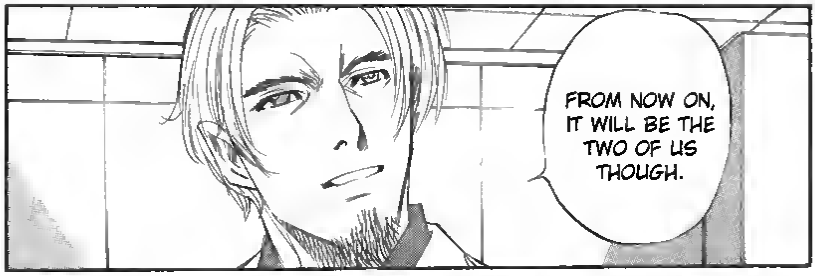
THE REASON I PLAY SHOGI...

EVEN SHOULD I SOLVE THE INCIDENT,
I'M SURE I WOULDN'T QUIT SHOGI.
THEN THERE IS SOMETHING YOU WILL HAVE TO DECIDE...
LEAGUE PLAYER ...
MEIJIN ...
I CAN TELL JUST BY WATCHING OLDER BROTHER HISATANI.
THAT IS SURELY A REALLY TOUGH PATH TO WALK...
I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT ALL UP UNTIL NOW,
BUT THERE IS ALSO THE ROUTE OF ENTERING THE PRO SHOGI LEAGUE AND AIMING TO BE A 4TH DAN.
BUT... I WILL SHOW THAT I CAN DEFINITELY DO IT!

BECAUSE I NEED TO AIM HIGHER,
TO DEFEAT THE PEOPLE I WANT TO FIGHT...
UNTIL THE MURDERER IS CAUGHT
THIS HOLE IN MY CHEST WILL NEVER BE FILLED
FATHER ... MOTHER ...

AND FOR THAT REASON, I, YASUOKA SHION,
WILL AIM TO BECOME A STRONGER SHOGI PLAYER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

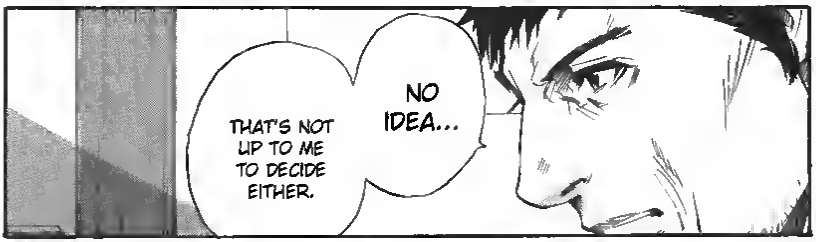
RATHER THAN BEING MY HOUSE, THIS IS MORE LIKE A PRIVATE RUNA-WAY HOUSE.
THIS IS WHERE I STUDY SHOGI IN MY FREE TIME, ALONE.
WELL...

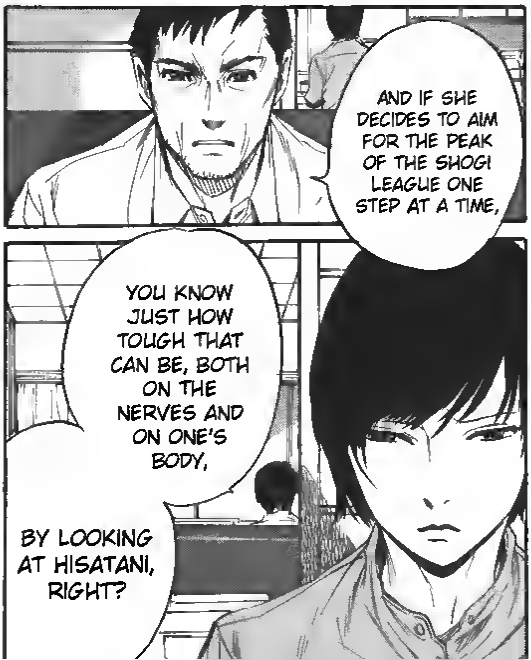

FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BE THE TWO OF US THOUGH.

I STILL...
DON'T CONSIDER YOU MY MASTER, MEIJIN.
.....

SO THEN, WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU EXPECT OF ME...?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
WATCH ME.
FOR ONE YEAR, DON'T LEAVE MY SIDE.
STAY NEAR ME AND DISCOVER WHAT MY AT-MOSPHERE IS LIKE.

Creak
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT BECOMING A 4TH DAN,
AND PLAYING WITH MEN PLAYERS WILL BRING SHION HAPPINESS?


NO IDEA...
THAT'S NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE EITHER.


AND IF SHE DECIDES TO AIM FOR THE PEAK OF THE SHOGI LEAGUE ONE STEP AT A TIME,
YOU KNOW JUST HOW TOUGH THAT CAN BE, BOTH ON THE NERVES AND ON ONE'S BODY,
BY LOOKING AT HISATANI, RIGHT?

IF SHE WINS THIS TOURNAMENT,
THEN SHION WILL BE THROWN INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE BATTLEFIELD.

No new messages
STILL, THE ONE WHO SHOULD DECIDE WHAT PATH SHE SHOULD FOLLOW,
IS SHION, HERSELF.
AYUMI-KUN... EVER SINCE YOUR MOTHER DIED AND YOU LOST YOUR MATCH AGAINST SATORU-SAN...
YOU HAVEN'T APPEARED AT THE ASSOCIATION NOR HAVE YOU CONTACTED ME.
AS LONG AS YOU AIM HIGHER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP SHOGI.
BUT YOU SHOULD BE FACING THE SAME THING AS ME RIGHT NOW...
I KNOW YOU'LL COME BACK, AYUMI-KUN.

YOU'RE SURE IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
snip
YES...
PLEASE.

I USED TO CUT SATORU'S HAIR LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME, WHEN WE WERE LITTLE.
Snip
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Snip
WHY...
ARE YOU, THE MEIJIN, BEING SO KIND TO ME?
BUT MAYBE YOU'LL FIND OUT BY STUDYING ME FROM NOW ON, NO?
WHO KNOWS...

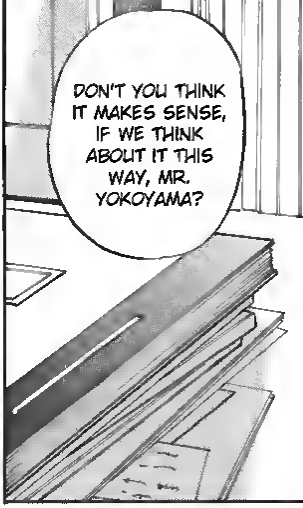
THAT DAY I FOUGHT SATORU-SAN, THE REASON YOU ARRIVED LATE,
WAS IT NOT, PERHAPS, BECAUSE YOU WERE GIVING ME A CHANCE,
KNOWING THAT SATORU-SAN WOULD BE SHAKEN?
SHOULD THAT BE THE CASE...
THEN YOU, WHO COULDN'T GRASP THAT CHANCE, ARE STILL WEAKER THAN SATORU.
YES, I REALISE NOW.
I AM WEAK...

AND THAT'S WHY... I WANT TO BE STRONGER.
AND THE REASON I'M HERE WITH YOU,
IS BECAUSE I WANT TO AIM HIGHER, TO BE THE STRONGEST!
I'LL SHOW YOU...

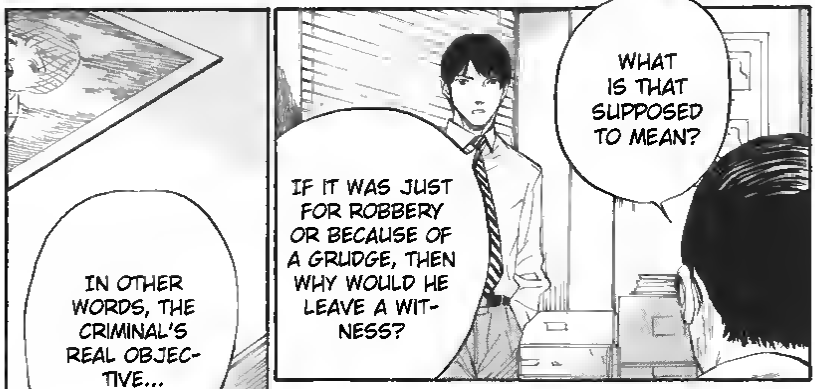
A HEIGHT THAT'S EVEN FURTHER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
35th Move
END

36th
Move
Crying Piece

HM?


DON'T YOU THINK IT MAKES SENSE, IF WE THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY, MR. YOKOYAMA?

WASN'T TO ASSASSINATE THE ISHIWATARI COUPLE...
FROM THE START, THE CRIMINAL'S AIM,


IN OTHER WORDS, THE CRIMINAL'S REAL OBJECTIVE...
IF IT WAS JUST FOR ROBBERY OR BECAUSE OF A GRUDGE, THEN WHY WOULD HE LEAVE A WITNESS?
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

FROM THE START, WAS TO MAKE SHION-SAN LIVE ALONE... AS THE SOLE SURVIVOR.
...
WHAT REASON WOULD HE HAVE TO DO THAT?
WELL... I HAVEN'T COME UP WITH THAT YET...

BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT MAKES MORE SENSE LIKE THAT?
SHE IS ALWAYS AT THE CENTER OF THIS INCIDENT, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
SO IT'S JUST A STRAY THOUGHT, HUH?
IF SHION-SAN WAS THE CENTER OF THIS INCIDENT FROM THE GET GO, THEN...

THEN IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS, DOES IT...?
王将
IT SEEMS I WAS JUST WORRYING OVER NOTHING.
SHION ATE EVERYTHING UP LIKE A HEALTHY GIRL.

SHE WENT TO HER MATCH WITH THE SAME ENERGY AS ALWAYS, RIGHT?
MAMA?

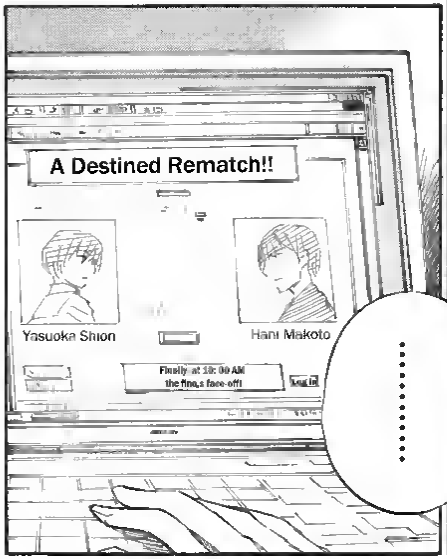
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS SOMETHING WORRYING YOU?

MAMA?
Shock

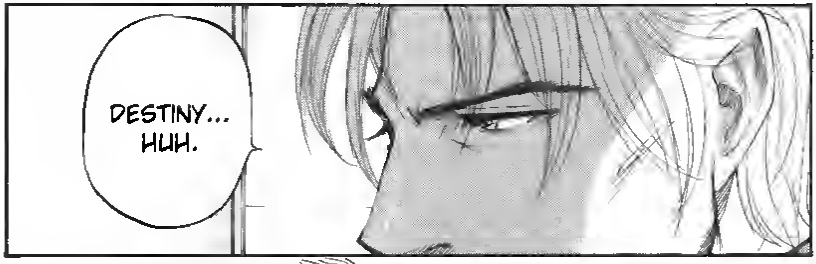
HER FOOT-STEPS...

THEY SOUNDED DIFFERENT FROM ANY THAT I'VE HEARD BEFORE...

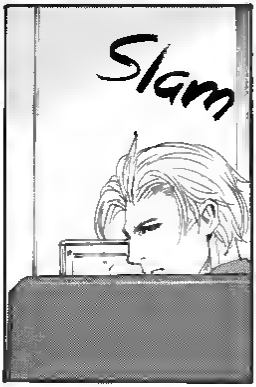
NO, MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT,
FOR THE FIRST TIME, TODAY, I HEARD SHION'S REAL FOOT-STEPS...


A Destined Rematch!!
Yasuoka Shion
Hani Makoto
Finally at 18:00 AM
the fina,s face-off!
Log in

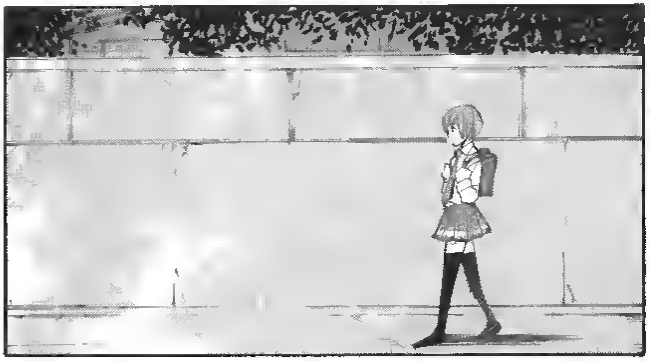
.....

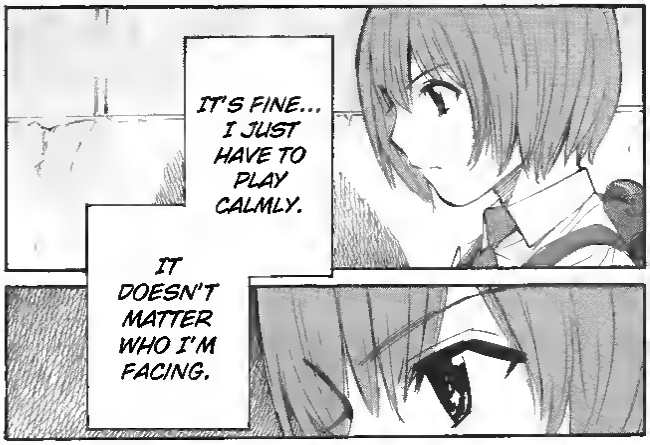

DESTINY...
HUH.

IT SEEMS LIKE MY CLOTHES FIT YOU.

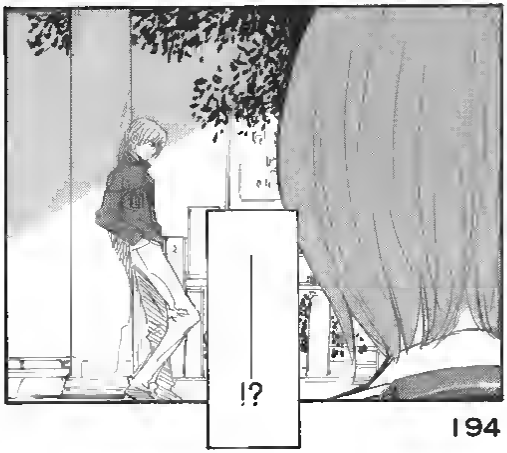

Slam

MAKE SURE YOU LOOK PROPER WHEN YOU'RE AROUND ME,
FEEL FREE TO USE ANY OF THE CLOTHES HERE.
YES.
HOW'S THE MATCH?
ARE YOU CURIOUS?
IT'S GOING TO START SOON.
THE MATCH OF SORROW...



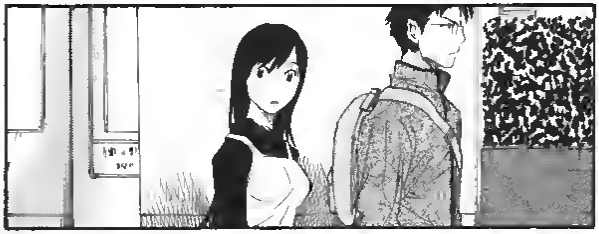

IT'S FINE... I JUST HAVE TO PLAY CALMLY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I'M FACING.

GOOD MORNING.

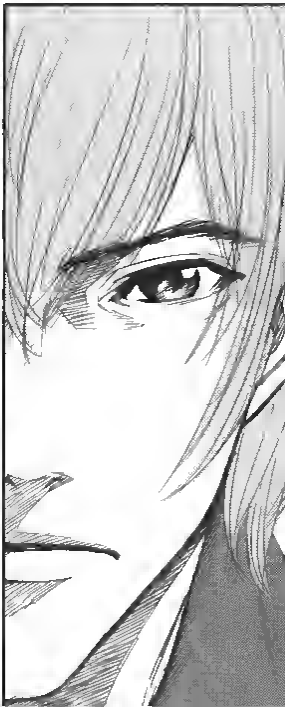

!?

I'M HAPPY I GET A CHANCE TO PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN.
WILL YOU STILL SMILE IF YOU LOSE, LIKE LAST TIME?
Flare
EVEN YOUR MOTHER MADE A FUSS ABOUT THAT...
EVEN YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED RIGHT? THAT IT WAS I WHO CUT YOUR SHOE LACES AND WAS BULLYING YOU.
SO HOW DO YOU CONTINUE SMILING?

Because I'm not scared of crying, I can always laugh.



HEY, HISA-TANI-KUN, OVER THERE...



SHION AND HANI SATORU?!
THOSE ARE...
SHION!
NO... WE JUST HAPPENED TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER.
DID YOU HAVE SOME MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH SHION?
RIGHT, SHION-SAN?

Nod
IS THAT THE TRUTH?
THIS GIRL...
LONG AND PLENTY OF FUN...
BECAUSE IT SEEMS IT WILL BE A VERY LONG DAY.
PLEASE CHEER FOR SHION-SAN,

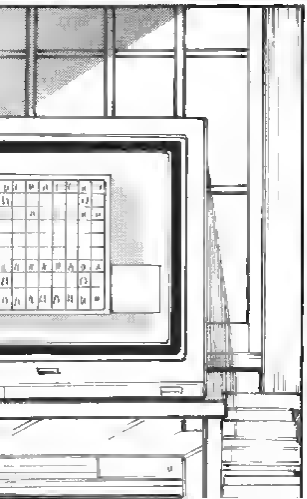
Latest Updates

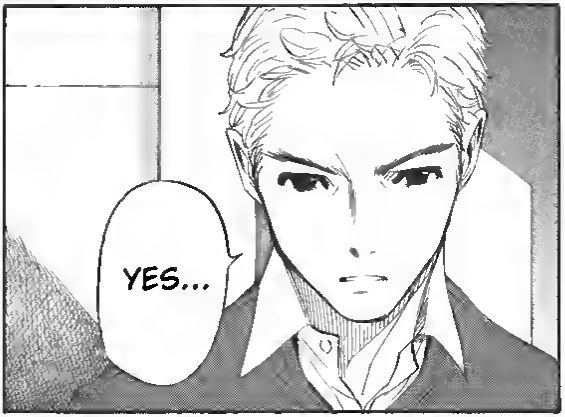
>Result of the toss to see who goes first
Hani Satoru Amateur First Player

This page will automatically refresh when the match starts at 10:00 AM.

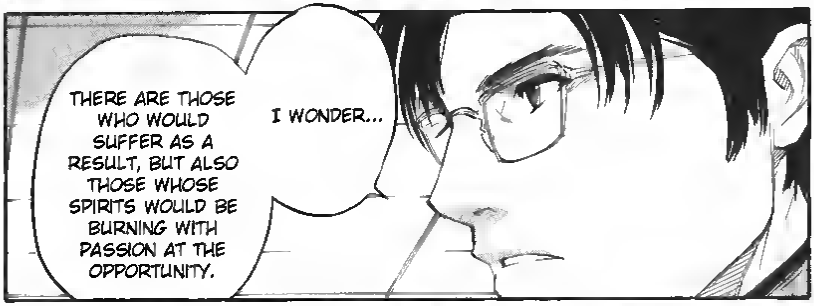
DO YOU THINK SHE CAN WIN?
.....
HOW HONEST.
Gunk
I DON'T DISLIKE THAT... IN A BOY.
BUT IN A PRO, IT'S FOOLISH.
THAT, I DON'T KNOW,
BUT I STILL BELIEVE SHE WILL.

FOR US,
AN EXISTENCE WHO WE LIKE ENOUGH TO MAKE US CONFUSED, IS UNNECESSARY.




YES...

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO FIGHT AGAINST SOMEONE YOU LOST TO IN THE PAST?
IT'S FINALLY GOING TO BEGIN.


I WONDER...
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SUFFER AS A RESULT, BUT ALSO THOSE WHOSE SPIRITS WOULD BE BURNING WITH PASSION AT THE OPPORTUNITY.

WHEN I SAW SHION-CHAN JUST A WHILE AGO...
SHE LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
HMM, I WONDER WHICH ONE SHION-SAN IS?

MORE RESOLVED, YOU COULD SAY.
IT'S TIME,
ACCORDING TO THE TOSS, AMATEUR, HANI SATORU WILL PLAY FIRST.
HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME.
SHE'S CALM...

I CAN CREATE A WAVE ANYTIME I LIKE...
WELL, MATTERS LITTLE.
Clack
FIRST MOVE, KING TO 5-H?!

IT'S NOT ACTUALLY A BAD MOVE FOR THE FIRST PLAYER,
BUT IT'S ALMOST NEVER SEEN IN PRO GAMES.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT MOVE...
I SEE... SO, IN OTHER WORDS,
IT'S A LOT LIKE SATORU-SAN, IS IT?

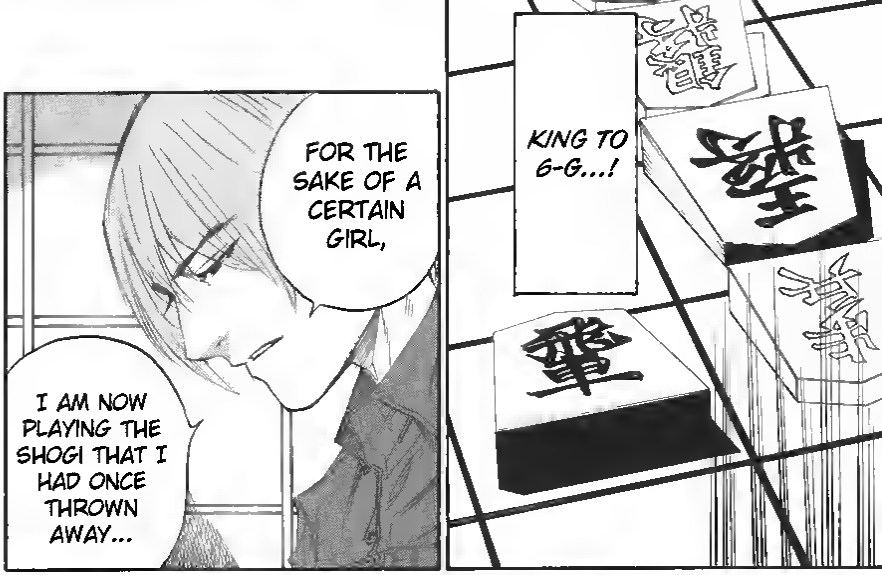
KING TO 5-H,
I'M SURE HE'S NOT JUST PLAYING THAT TO SHOCK ME... WHAT'S HIS AIM?
I READ THE INTERVIEW YOU DID WITH THAT NEWSPAPER.
WERE YOU ABLE TO FIND OUT YOUR REASON FOR PLAYING SHOGI?
.....
Squeeze

CLICK
I LIKE THAT,
THOSE EYES...
Match Starts
First player Hani Amateur ▲ Black King to 5-H
Second player Yasuoka Women's League △ White Rook to 5-B
AYUMI, WE'RE HEADING OUT.
EH?! OKAY...
AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T GET SWEPT UP IN HER OPPONENT'S PACE...
MIDDLE ROOK, HUH?

AND WE NEED TO HAVE YOU MAKE YOUR DEBUT TOO.
IS MORE INTERESTING TO SEE IT IN PERSON, AFTER ALL.
FOR THIS GIRL'S MATCH,

THIS SHOULD BE ROOK TO SAME SQUARE, NO?
SHION, THAT GIRL... WHAT'S SHE WORRYING ABOUT NOW?

I HAVE TO PLAY MY OWN SHOGI, OR ELSE I'LL LOSE... BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HESITATE!
I'LL JUST CAPTURE WITH MY ROOK, AS IT FEELS RIGHT.
Click
Heh
THE PROB-LEM COMES AFTER HE MOVES HIS SILVER TO 5-G...
!?


FOR THE SAKE OF A CERTAIN GIRL,
I AM NOW PLAYING THE SHOGI THAT I HAD ONCE THROWN AWAY...
KING TO 6-G...!

RIGHT NOW, THAT IS THE REASON THAT I CONTINUE TO LIVE.

KING TO 6-G,
THIS MOVE ALSO FEELS A LOT LIKE SOMETHING SATORU-SAN WOULD DO.
REASON... HE CONTI-NUES TO LIVE.

.....
SHION-SAN IS TAKING HER TIME AGAIN.
THE DAY AFTER YOUR REAL PARENTS WERE KILLED,
SHE DIED.
ALL ALONE, WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING...
BUT...
THAT GIRL HAS ALREADY MOVED ON FROM THIS WORLD,
SHION MET HER ONCE TOO, ACTUALLY,
BECAUSE SHE USED TO GO TO THE ISHIWATARI'S PLACE BEFORE THE INCIDENT.
BUT YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LITTLE TO REMEMBER HER.

PERHAPS, IT WAS FROM THAT DAY...
THAT WAS MY FAMILY FROM 8 YEARS AGO.
FATHER AND MOTHER WERE LAUGHING,
MAMA AND PAPA YASUOKA WERE ALSO THERE,
EVEN BEFORE THE INCI-DENT, THEY TAUGHT ME SHOGI...

I REMEMBER ALL OF THEM...
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE TOO...
IT WAS A KIND AND BEAUTIFUL OLDER GIRL.
MY FIANCE, YOU SEE,
IS APPARENTLY ALSO REALLY GOOD AT SHOGI.
SO THAT GIRL WAS,
AN IMPORTANT EXISTENCE TO THIS MAN...

I RE-MEM-BER...
!?
I STILL REMEMBER
ALL OF THEM...
Shion Volume 6
END

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編集部では、この作品に対する皆様のご意見・ご感想をお待ちしております。

また、今後「アフタヌーンKC」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら編集部までお知らせください。

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